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# DEFENCE & SECURITY ALERT

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## ARMY SPECIAL : 1962-2020 PREPAREDNESS & ROAD TO THEATERISATION



THE FIRST CHOICE IN THE DOMAINS OF  
DEFENCE, SECURITY AND WORLD AFFAIRS  
WORLDWIDE

11 YEARS OF  
EXCELLENCE





## 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!



**C**hange, to paraphrase, a hymn from the Gita, is a rule of nature. In that it is ordained, there will be change, constantly and without fail, come what may. In a number of instances change is to be welcomed since it brings in another dimension to life, and the order of things. Change induces newer methods of conducting business, altering work culture and all else that goes with it. It is unavoidable, and the challenges imposed must be accepted. But when change is sought to be introduced, seemingly unilaterally, then the welcome or acceptance is not always pleasant, as consequences remain uncertain.

This is the current state of things in the army, as certain changes proposed in pecuniary benefits have caught the mood of the vast majority of the junior leadership. There is an undercurrent of deep resentment at the proposed changes and opposition is intense. So, the purpose of bringing in the changes is lost in the tumult

of anger. Creating turmoil in the minds of the army leadership must be avoided at all costs; more so when it seems to be coming from within the fraternity and unilateral at that. When it hasn't been asked for, why ruffle the community.

This is even more so when the army has enough of a challenge on its hands in the long face-off with China over its incursions along the Ladakh border. The largest army mobilisation in almost two decades has lasted far longer than it was anticipated, and, is a physical and logistical nightmare. Unlike Operation Parakram against Pakistan following the December 2001 attack on the Parliament; Operation Snow Leopard in 2020 is all high altitude and is going to be snow bound for at least another five months. This imposes challenges on Army HQs in managing equipment and supplies.

Op Parakram was a wake-up call in terms of inadequacies in logistics. Lessons were supposed to have been learned and implemented so as to avoid more such embarrassing episodes. Op

Snow Leopard hasn't shown any such shortcomings simply because the transparency hasn't been on par with that earlier period. A short notice purchase of extreme snow clothing has been the only reported acquirement in the recent period. Anything that helps the most vulnerable soldier is always welcome, first and foremost. There can never be any compromise on that score, just as there cannot be when it comes to Indian Territory.

It is to the credit of the army that it has not waded into the seriously avoidable controversy over just how much Indian Territory has been occupied by China in Ladakh. The reality is known, especially to those affected immediately, the locals, and especially the animal grazers who have lost parts of their pasture lands. It is a challenge that the country faces and its army confronts the aggressor eyeball to eyeball. There is faith in the army, an institution that still inspired confidence in a country that doesn't have many of them to look up to. That faith must not be undermined, in any form.

**Manvendra Singh**

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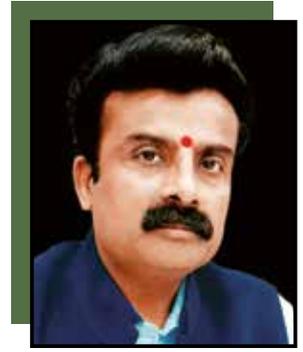
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**Editor: Manvendra Singh**

# INDIAN ARMY: 1962-2020 YEARS OF PREPARATION



Indians who were born after 1962 have been listening to personal anecdotes of the Chinese invasion in that year from their parents and grandparents. This was the first conventional war fought by the Indian Army—the Pakistani invasion of Jammu and Kashmir in 1947 is best described as a tribalised irregular warfare. In 1962, though our soldiers fought very well on several fronts, the lack of adequate preparation to deal with the harsh weather conditions and a perfidious enemy led to a debacle. Since the attainment of Independence in 1947, the nation was more intent on all-round development than military confrontation with any of our neighbours.

India has always been known as a peace-loving state and we maintained very cordial relations with all our neighbours and had many cooperative short term as well as long term understandings and arrangements for overall development in all the neighbouring countries. But, unfortunately, due to certain wrong decisions by the then leadership, India had to face the first war with China with inadequate preparation and lost thousands of our brave defence personnel.

There were many reasons that were proffered for the loss of this first war; some were genuine and some manipulated by certain segments in society for their own vested interests. Yet, there is no gainsaying that the biggest challenge our army faced was the climatic conditions with no proper clothing and safeguards to counter the chilling cold waves, glaciers, avalanches and continuous snow with a temperature below minus 30 degrees centigrade. Another challenge faced by army personnel during the war was obsolete arms and ammunition in comparison to the Chinese army. As seen in any war, the usage of arms and ammunition only decides who wins or who loses.

We all know that defeat is a great teacher. It makes us learn. India too learned a lot from that defeat at the hands of the Chinese in 1962. Over the past six decades, India has been laying the foundations of a viable military-industrial complex with the creation of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSU) and, more recently, incorporating the private sector into the network. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Ordnance Factory Board, and many other laboratories and industries have jointly contributed to the incremental growth of India's military capabilities. So much so that India was able to defeat Chinese landgrab in Dokhlam in North Bhutan in 2017 and Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh in 2020.

Today, Indian Army is one of the best fighting forces in the world with a strength of about 2.2 million of regulars and reserves equipped with improved weaponry and backed by an effective logistics grid of communications, engineering capabilities, service corps and medical corps bolstered by improved weapons platforms like helicopters and heavy-lift aircraft. The heartening development is that more and more, after decades of research and development, India is on the threshold of self-sufficiency in missiles and artillery.

Today, Indian Army is being invited to train the other armies in the world and there are more joint exercises. Although we have come a long way but still a lot more needs to be done considering the current volatile situation around us created by China and Pakistan on a daily basis. I am sure that day is not far when every enemy will be deterred by the Indian Army's capabilities and its determination to protect the territorial integrity of the nation.

January 15 is commemorated as the Army Day. It was the day when Gen K.M. Cariappa became the first Indian officer to take command of India's land forces. Team DSA congratulates the entire Indian Army for its commitment to national security under the leadership of Chief of the Army Staff Gen M.M. Naravane.

With this first edition of 2021, I personally wish all our readers, contributors and security personnel a Very Happy New Year.

Jai Hind



**Pawan Agrawal**  
 Chief Executive Officer



**ACQUIRE CAPABILITIES OF MEN AND MACHINES**

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