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DEFENCE AND SECURITY ALERT

SAARC COUNTRIES: US$ 20
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June 2014

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 6

INDEFENCE AND SECURITY

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AND ROBOTICS

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AVAILABLE ON INDIAN AIR FORCE (IAF) INTRANET
The power of a King lies in his mighty arms ...

Security of the citizens at peacetime 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
Indian politics has seen a paradigm shift. The momentous verdict of 2014 is deeply connected to its recent past and also has a long-term impact on its political and social development. The mandate is significant for many things, foremost of which is the fact that India voted for change like it hasn’t in decades. The upheaval of 2014 is certain to have long-term implications for Indian politics, governance, decision-making and most of all in the realms of policy formulation. The change that India has voted for must also be reflected in changes in policy. People have voted for a change in how India is governed. They have voted out the old order, the established way of governing India and how policies are made in the country.

This desire for change must be respected while formulating policies. And amongst the most important is defence. The manner in which the electorate has remade the political map of India must now be reflected in how defence policies are made in the country. The starting block of which is the functioning of the Ministry of Defence. Amongst the most sensitive of ministries and departments in India, the Ministry of Defence runs in an antiquated framework that goes totally against the times and requirements. Despite progress in every field the MoD continues to function with the fear that a military coup can happen unless the armed forces are kept firmly in check. Enough water has flown down the Ganga since 1947 to suggest that perpetuating this fiction has only harmed Indian national interests even as it has infected the decision-making process.

The bureaucrat heavy approach of running the MoD must be jettisoned in order to make it an efficient ministry that functions according to the times. This is not to say that there should be no bureaucracy in the MoD. The civilian presence in the ministry is a must, but what is not is the dependence on them in decision-making.

Greater coordination with the three Service headquarters is vital, so that the specialists in war fighting are part of the loop when it comes to deciding policies, programmes, priorities and principles of defence. Foremost is the need to expedite decision-making, not like the way the MoD was run by the former Defence Minister. Armed with an impeccably honest image, but the MoD was harmed by his lack of decision-making. Along with decision-making there is an important need to maintain probity and transparency while taking decision. In essence the MoD is only being secretive from Indians when it comes to decision-making, because the evaluation and execution of orders is freely known to foreign nationals who manufacture the weapon systems; or their representatives. This is a myopic policy, retards national interests and promotes corruption. Greater transparency can only encourage clean and good governance. Which is the mood of the 2014 vote.

To ensure good governance and able decision-making there is a need to restructure the MoD. It cannot be run efficiently in the manner it is currently made. This also means that the three services have to be part of the restructuring. Antiquated structures abound in the services too. In the age of digitisation there is a need to smarten up the financing of the services. There is, for example, no need for the three services to duplicate or triplicate institutions and schools of instruction. Or for that matter repair workshops, bases and headquarters. For starters joint command headquarters must be established across the country. War fighting is best done jointly. By which it means it should be planned jointly, armed jointly and executed jointly. A joint special operations command is a prime example of tri-service cooperation. Living in silos and then hoping to score victories only adds to unnecessary costs and causes delays. This requires modernisation, as much in thought, manpower, as in equipment too.

The ultimate weapon in war has always been the mind. And in the new era of technologies the human mind has created weapon systems that were unimaginable barely a generation ago. Even as unmanned aerial vehicles have taken the world by storm, there has been an exponential growth in robotics and artificial intelligence. These are all essential parts of modern war preparations and war fighting. The future, therefore, is known. The challenge is to reach it with efficiency. Crux of the 2014 mandate.

Manvendra Singh

June 2014  DEFENCE AND SECURITY ALERT
**Volume 5 Issue 9 June 2014**

**EDITORIAL**

When you see a young labourer, sitting on a rickshaw, talking on a cellphone to someone far away, you realise how smoothly and swiftly technology has crept in and made inroads into life in India. We all understand the vital role of technology as it mushroom around us in our day-to-day existence. Luxuries have become basic necessities and every individual is associated with technology in some form or the other. Without modern technology, it seems we have been teleported back to the medieval age: When we see young tech-savvy children with their astonishing skills and keen learning abilities, our own handicap for an easy adaptation of these technologies gets very embarrassing.

With science and technology inventing innovative, irresistible and user friendly gadgets every day, it becomes mandatory to scrutinise and review its role in the defence and security sectors of India to deal with unavoidable threats and challenges doctored by the alienated neighbours of our motherland. Their dirty games are a threat to our internal security and need to be challenged and frustrated.

China has already equipped its defence forces with latest technologies for Air, Land and Sea warfare and is extensively initiating the use of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics for defence and security. Closer on the western border, Pakistan is trying its best to procure all possible latest gadgets to empower its defence forces also with undisguised help from China. As a part of its national policy of using “non-state actors” as its forward echelon, the Pakistani Army Inter-Services Intelligence is siphoning off these acquired tools to terrorist outfits for creating trouble in India. These disturbing activities instigate an immediate introspective for a major improvement of India’s technical means of defence preparedness as these neighbours get more and more unpredictable.

Another very important aspect is the role of Intelligence and surveillance in security preparedness. While challenges and threats on our borders are being countered by our strong and confident defence and paramilitary forces, equally crucial is the requirement to strengthen our intelligence and surveillance for security preparedness. Our policy and decision-makers cannot afford to lose their focus on these vital aspects for a strong defence and security apparatus for India.

Hiding our heads in the sand like an ostrich is not going to make the challenges disappear! Artificial intelligence and robotics with a strong reinforcement of intelligence and surveillance need to become the prime focus areas for defence preparedness. The concept of “Future Soldier” promises to contribute effectively like in the US, UK, France, Russia and Israel. Considering the huge population of India, its ratio with police and security forces is depressingly alarming in comparison to the other nations of the world. The level of “Intelligence” generated by terrorist groups and Naxalites appears to be much more advanced than what is available to our security and police forces. The voids are scary!

This edition focuses on aspects that have been completely neglected by the previous government and I on behalf of Team DSA congratulate the newly formed government which has come to power with a thumping majority. I invoke our new leaders to quickly get a grip on defence and security agendas. I strongly feel that a judicious and pragmatic prioritisation of the nation’s most pressing problems and identifying long-term solutions will lay down the foundation of success for the new government.

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**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES!**

With the scintillation of his coronation ceremony subsiding over the dusky horizon, the new Prime Minister and his 45-member cabinet pull the trigger for their expedition on one of the most watched government tenures.

Expectations soar!

India awaits a colossal transformation with bated breath as Indians identify with Mr Modi’s vision for the revival of our economy and find solace in his emphasis on good governance, growth and development. If Mr Modi’s determined evolution is a parameter for reference, we are confident that he has the guts to perform this miracle. But ... is India disciplined enough for this transition from paucity to prosperity? For this extraordinary spectacle, India needs to start gearing up and running to match up to Mr Modi’s pace. Only then, can we start dreaming of an India that will manage to retain a secular and democratic way of life, while dealing firmly with external and internal threats.

Decades of negligence and indifference have inflicted incalculable damage and weakened the reserves of our defence and security forces. Concurring with renowned think tanks and eminent experts that the country’s defence preparedness has plummeted to rock bottom, DSA believes that the first priority of Mr Narendra Modi, along with the economy, should be upgrading India’s conventional military capability and homeland security. Only strong and decisive governance can dismantle the hurdles that have been barricading implementation of policies and administrative reforms to develop indigenous research and manufacturing of weapons along with eradicating delays in procuring defence and security equipment and technologies. To meet the current challenges, India finally gets a decisive leader whose objective should be to prevent war by a combination of nuclear and conventional deterrence, deft diplomacy and mutually beneficial economic ties. The new prime minister is committed to ensure a transparent and honest administration. It’s time for leaderships that are truly willing to restore both internal and global confidence while making the mythical “sustainable development” and “supersonic growth” a reality.

In Mr Modi’s own words, “A strong government is where the will of the people matters, where the voice of the people is heard and where the dreams of the people are fulfilled.”

Strategic vision and steady resolve to get things done should be the beacons to light the path of Mr Modi’s epoch-making journey of taking India to the pinnacle of development and prosperity.

Team DSA supports and stands with Mr Modi and his government in the service of the nation.
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ROBOTICS IN DEFENCE AND SECURITY

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