

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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## New superpanel for defence strategy

*Permanent body to include service chiefs, key secretaries; will drive military planning, expedite acquisitions.*

NEW DELHI: The Narendra Modi government has decided to create an overarching Defence Planning Committee (DPC) under National Security Advisor Ajit Doval that will drive the country's military and security strategy, draft capability development plans and guide (and accelerate) defence equipment acquisitions, according to a defence ministry notification seen by Hindustan Times.

The move, which is a significant change in India's defence strategy architecture, comes as the country faces several potential threats in a highly militarised neighbourhood; is trying to balance budgetary constraints with its need for arms; and is working on increasing its own expertise in manufacturing and exporting defence equipment. Until now, defence planning has been synonymous with hardware acquisition.

The DPC will be a permanent body chaired by the National Security Advisor and comprise the chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, three service chiefs, the defence, expenditure and foreign secretaries, and prepare draft reports on "national security strategy, international defence engagement strategy, roadmap to build (a) defence manufacturing ecosystem, strategy to boost defence exports, and priority capability development plans", according to the notification. It will submit its reports to defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The DPC is expected to meet soon after Doval returns from Germany on April 21.

Analysts point out that because the Prime Minister's Office, the defence ministry, the finance ministry and the three services are part of the same committee, decisions on military purchases could now happen much faster. The Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) will be the member secretary of the committee, according to the notification, and the HQ of the Integrated Defence Staff will be the secretariat of the DPC.

The notification lists four subcommittees that could be created under the DPC across four broad areas: policy and strategy; plans and capability development; defence diplomacy; and defence manufacturing ecosystem.

While India does have a defence planning architecture in place, this is the first time it is creating a body that will factor in everything from foreign policy imperatives to operational directives and long-term defence equipment acquisition and infrastructure development plans to technological developments in other parts of the world while coming up with a plan.

The DPC will prepare military doctrines and, in turn, define Indian military objectives for the future. The doctrines will reflect India's no-first-use nuclear policy as well as take into account the possibility of a two-front war (on the country's western and northern fronts). They will justify the Indian Navy's demand of two aircraft carriers and the role of Indian Air Force in the era of long range stand-off weapons and missile theatre defence.

Senior defence ministry officials said that defence minister's operational directives will flow out of new military doctrines to ensure that India's strategic interests are not threatened by any of its neighbours, or a proxy. The operational directives are classified instructions issued to any military arm to protect national interest.

## Army felicitates CWG medal winners

*By Sapna Singh*

On the back of a successful Commonwealth Games campaign, the Indian Army on Wednesday accorded a warm welcome to their sportspersons.

After winning numerous medals in the just-concluded CWG, all eyes are now set on the upcoming Asian games. These young Army men, who outweighed the expectations of an entire nation, are now ready for bigger battles.

Felicitating the young boys, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Bipin Rawat said, "My special compliments to all the medal winners who have brought glory to the nation and the Indian Army," before adding, "These achievements have been possible due to hard work, dedication, grit and sincere commitment. You have made the nation proud."

Appreciating the efforts of Mission Olympic Programme, the chief added that Indian Army will continue to support the sportspersons to ensure sustained training as well as preparing them for the forthcoming international events, before beginning their Olympics quest.

Experts might say that CWG cannot be compared with the like of Asian Games and the Olympics, where major sports powerhouses such as China, United States and other European countries are in contention. However, for Subedar Jitu Ram (Gold - shooting), NB Sub Neeraj chopra (Gold - javelin) Subedar Satish Kumar (Silver - boxing) and others it was nothing less than winning a battle.

Talking to The Pioneer, Subedar Jitu Rai, from Nepal, said that, "I am following my CO's instruction and it is my duty to obey his order. I am still at the learning stage and want to perform well in the upcoming events." "I am happy but there is lot more I need to do. Before joining the Army, I was least aware on the sports and sportsmanship," said Rai here at Sam Manekshaw Center, Delhi Cantt.

Encouraging his young troops, the Commanding Officer, Vivek Gupta, Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) mentioned that these boys are focused and dedicated. "To achieve victory in Games, the mental sharpness is equally required with physical strength. With intense training from foreign coaches, we try to bring the best out of them," said Colonel Gupta. Hailing from Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, Sub Satish Kumar is very fond of local sports - Kabbaddi and Wrestling, "I never dreamt of being a part of Indian sports team within Army. I follow the instructions of my coach and I'm able to gain the confidence to perform best in international ring. "I want to compete with Uzbekistan boxing champion Hasanboy Dusmatov," concluded a motivated Satish.

Like Kumar, Manish Kaushik, who bagged a Silver medal (Boxing) in the recently concluded CWG, also dream to face boxing players from Cuba, Rome and England? When asked what keeps their morale high - all said in one tone- Basic Marksmanship and brotherhood!

# NSA will chair panel set up for new security roadmap; Foreign, Defence Secys its members

*The committee, which will be a permanent body, will prepare a draft national security strategy besides undertaking a strategic defence review and formulating an international defence engagement strategy.*

*By Sushant Singh*

IN a major step meant to reform the process of higher defence planning, the government on Wednesday formed a new integrated institutional mechanism, called the Defence Planning Committee (DPC) under the chairmanship of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. The committee, which will be a permanent body, will prepare a draft national security strategy besides undertaking a strategic defence review and formulating an international defence engagement strategy.

Sources told The Indian Express that the idea to create an institutional mechanism which could undertake comprehensive and integrated planning of higher defence matters had been on the table for some time but was not gaining traction. The idea got a push in recent months, particularly after the last budget, with the three service chiefs and defence ministry officials working together to get it implemented.

Given the complex security environment and the volume of expenditure on national defence, sources said that it was imperative to have a strong defence planning mechanism. The present system was found insufficient to provide the rigour necessary for the planning process, which led to creation of this new institutional mechanism.

As per the government order issued on Wednesday, DPC will consist of the Chairman Chiefs of the Staff Committee (COSC), service chiefs, Defence Secretary, Foreign Secretary and Secretary (expenditure) in the Finance Ministry. The committee will operate through four sub-committees: on Policy and Strategy, Plans and Capability Development, Defence Diplomacy, and Defence Manufacturing Ecosystem. The membership and the terms of reference of the sub-committees will be finalized separately.

## WHAT & HOW

**MEMBERS:** NSA, Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee, service chiefs, Defence, Foreign Secy, Secy (Expenditure)

**4 SUB-COMMITTEES:** Policy and Strategy, Plans and Capability Development, Defence Diplomacy, and Defence Manufacturing Ecosystem.'

**TASK:** Assess external security risk, define defence and security priorities; formulate military strategy

By bringing the Foreign Secretary and Expenditure Secretary into the formal planning process of the Defence Ministry, the government has attempted to overcome the problems of coordination between various ministries on matters of national security. It has often been alleged that the defence planning process and the requirements of the armed forces have been cut off from the diplomatic priorities and financial capacity of the government.

To overcome this lacuna, the DPC has been tasked to undertake external security risk assessment and define national defence and security priorities. It will also formulate the national military strategy, a strategic defence review and a draft national security strategy.

To accomplish these requirements, DPC will identify the “means” and “ways” across ministries, obtain CCS approval for a capability development plan and provide guidance for budgetary support.

The DPC will also prepare a roadmap to build a defence manufacturing ecosystem, a strategy to boost defence exports and prioritized capability plans for the armed forces in consonance with the overall priorities, strategies and likely resource flows. It will submit all its reports to the defence minister.

The previous attempt at an equivalent reform in higher defence planning was in the 1970s when an Apex Group was established in 1974 under the Planning Minister, to bring defence planning within the broader purview of the national planning. In 1977, the government set up a Committee for Defence Planning (CDP) under the Cabinet Secretary, with Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, Defence Secretary, Secretary Defence Production and Supplies, Secretary R&D, Finance Secretary, Secretary Planning Commission, Secretary (R) in the Cabinet Secretariat and the three Service Chiefs as its members. It was tasked to allocate resources among the defence services and “undertake regular assessments relevant to defence planning in the light of all factors having a bearing on national security and defence.”

This committee did not achieve desired results and the 2001 report of the Group of Ministers on “Reforming the National Security System,” under the previous NDA government had noted: “The defence planning process is greatly handicapped by the absence of a national security doctrine, and commitment of funds beyond the financial year. It also suffers from a lack of inter-service prioritization, as well as the requisite flexibility. It is of prime importance that the process is optimally managed to produce the most effective force structure based on a carefully worked out long term plan, in the most cost effective manner.”

The GoM had recommended the formation of a Chief of Defence Staff to achieve that goal but that has still not seen the light of the day.

## THE ASIAN AGE

*Thu, 19 April, 2018*

# Indian Army to train in Malaysia

*By Sanjib Kr Baruah*

In less than two weeks from now, about 90 battle-hardened soldiers from the Indian Army will leave for the thick and lush jungles of Malaysia’s Selangor, a Maoist bastion in the 1950s, to exchange ideas, tactics and techniques with one of Malaysia’s finest jungle and guerrilla warfare exponents.

Besides Selangor, Kelantan, Perak, and Johor were among the most active areas for the Maoist insurgents. The Exercise “Harimau Shakti”, literally meaning ‘tiger strength’ is particularly significant because Malaysia is one of those very few countries globally that has successfully exterminated organized insurgencies even as India’s fight against insurgency across many regions continue.

Detailing the exercise in Selangor’s Hulu Langat, Colonel Aman Anand, spokesperson of the Indian Army, told this newspaper: “It is the first iteration of this exercise that is happening in Malaysia that too at a much larger scale including the field training phase involving operations in deep jungle terrain.”

“From the Indian Army side, one of the oldest and proudest battalions of the 4 Grenadiers (CQMH Abdul Hamid, PVC) will train together with the 1, Royal Ranger Regiment, a unit considered to be a master in jungle warfare. Both sides have great experience in counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations so we expect to learn a lot from each other,” he added.

In course of its history, Malaysia has endured two serious internal security challenges, termed ‘emergencies’ in the form of armed insurgency by Maoist communists. While the first emergency continued for 12 years from 1948 to 1960, the second lasted for 21 years from 1968 to 1989.

Initially finding that conventional tactics like cordon and search operations not working, the Malaysian state resorted to raising of Special Forces which attained huge success. One of the first moves comprised

recruiting the aborigines to set up special paramilitary forces like the Sarawak Rangers which was renamed as the Royal Rangers regiment in 1963.

About 113 soldiers from the Malaysian Army's Royal Rangers regiment are expected to participate in the two-week-long exercise that ends on May 13. Both the armies' will use the M4 A1 assault rifle—one of the favourites of Special Forces' commandos across the world for its lightweight and accuracy.

While the main aim of the exercise is to enhance army to army coordination and cooperation with a focus on counter terror and counter insurgency in jungle terrain, the operational exchanges between the two teams will include search and destroy operations, staging attacks on enemy camps, mounting an ambush, jungle survival tactics, handling and countering of IEDs etc.

In 1960, the Malaysian government had pushed the remnants of the Maoist movement to the Malaysia-Thailand border from where they again raised the banner of rebellion in 1968 only to be completely quelled in 1989.

## **Business Standard**

*Thu, 19 April, 2018*

# **US Pacific Command chief seeks to break down Russia's influence in India**

*Davidson's statement comes just days after Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman snubbed Russian arms exhibitors at Defexpo 2018 in Chennai*

*By Ajai Shukla*

Admiral Philip S Davidson, who President Donald Trump has chosen to replace Admiral Harry B Harris as the top US military commander responsible for the Indo-Pacific region suggested the US should replace Russia as India's premier security partner.

Asked in his confirmation hearings on Tuesday by the US Senate Armed Services Committee about what he envisaged – military sales, or military training – as the key tool for engaging India, Davidson stated: “India’s military has long relied on the former Soviet Union for some of their technology and training. We have to break down that historical background, to a certain extent. Break down is not the correct word, but we willing to work with that so we can move forward with India.”

As Pacific Command (PACOM) chief over the last three years, Harris has assiduously cultivated India as a military partner for helping contain Chinese expansionism. However, his successor, Davidson, has gone even further.

Davidson's statement comes just days after Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman snubbed Russian arms exhibitors at Defexpo 2018 in Chennai. As this newspaper reported (April 15, “Russia rues its declining role as arms supplier to India”) Sitharaman turned her back on Russian exhibits, ignoring them as she strolled past, looking instead at the Israeli exhibits across the aisle.

Questioned in Washington D.C. by the Senate panel about which Indo-Pacific countries he regarded as “most important”, Davidson mentioned America’s “five treaty allies in the Pacific” – Japan, (South) Korea, Australia, Philippines and Thailand – but then switched tack to India. “Of partners, I think the historic opportunity for the United States going forward is probably with India. That would be a relationship that I intend to work on with great energy”, he stated.

Davidson was also questioned about his views on the “quadrilateral, which Senate Committee described as “a loose coalition between the United States, Japan, Australia and India”.

Davidson responded: “I agree there is some opportunity there, Senator. Absolutely, to come together on issues where our interests converge.”

“I will seek to prioritise increasing maritime security cooperation, expanding the military-to-military relationship across all Services, concluding key foundational agreements, facilitating greater Indian contributions to Afghanistan, and deepening defense cooperation,” Davidson said.

As a navy officer, Davidson made his worry clear about China’s growing capability in submarine warfare, which threatened to erode the US Navy’s “perishable lead”.

“They have new submarines on both the ballistic missile side and on the attack submarine side and they’re achieving numbers in the build of those submarines as well”, Davidson stated.

Asked by Senate panel members whether cyber espionage was responsible for China’s growing submarine capabilities, Davidson was blunt: “I believe they are stealing technology in just about every domain and trying to use it to their advantage”, he said.

With no apparent hurdles to Davidson’s confirmation as the next commander of PACOM – the Hawaii-based military command whose responsibilities sprawl across the Pacific Ocean, the seas around China and much of the Indian Ocean, including India – he is likely to take over command from Harris in the middle of 2018.



*Thu, 19 April, 2018*

## **ISRO chairman: Chandrayaan-2 to cost ₹800 cr**

India’s second lunar exploration mission, the Chandrayaan-2, which is scheduled for launch in October-November, would cost a total of ~800 crore — ~200 crore for the launch and ~600 crore for the satellite — Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) chairman K Sivan said on Wednesday.

“This cost,” he told Union minister of state for atomic energy and space Jitendra Singh during a meeting here, “is almost half of what it would cost if the same mission had to be launched from a foreign launching site”. An ISRO official said there is only a window of one or two days in a month for launching the satellite to the moon. This window was in April and the next date is in October and then November.

The second iteration of the moon mission comes a decade after the launch of Chandrayaan-I, a landmark mission for the national space agency as with that India became only the fourth country to plant its flag on the moon, after the United States, former USSR and Japan.

The Chandrayaan-2 is an advanced version of its predecessor. It will weigh 3,250kg at the launch, with an orbiter, lander and rover that are all indigenously developed. The orbiter will be launched into orbit while the lander will make a soft landing on the moon and deploy the rover. “The probe will descend on the surface of the moon, from where they will collect samples of soil, water, etc to carry back home for detailed analysis and research,” Sivan said. Jitendra Singh praised the fact that the second mission is not only cost-effective but also “totally indigenous in its expertise, manufacturing and material”.

India’s first lunar probe, Chandrayaan-1, was lauded for costing a fraction of what other lunar missions cost — \$80 million as compared to the Japan’s SELENE mission’s \$480 million.

Chandrayaan-I was launched on October 22, 2008 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre near Chennai.

## France eyes defence pie

France considers it is best placed to understand India's quest for Make-in-India defence hardware because of similarities in their approach. "We fully understand India's desire to develop its own defence industry and capabilities. We, too, have invested massively, both financially and industrially, to increase our strategic autonomy. That is why, I think, India sees France as a key partner in this field," Ambassador of France to India Alexandre Ziegler told The Tribune.

He was in Chandigarh to take stock of France's partnership to develop Chandigarh as a smart city. The envoy also drew attention to France's historical lead in assisting India in developing military platforms to establish that the French military-industry complex is much more than just a supplier of arms to India. The construction of six Scorpene submarines in Mumbai is the "most emblematic example of the French tradition of Make-in-India with high-level transfers of technology".

Zeigler was seeking to favourably position the French industry as the Indian Government resolves to get into the high gear for selecting foreign partners to manufacture high-end defence products in the country. French military companies are in the race for an entire spectrum of military products, including missiles, submarines, field artillery, fighter aircraft and tanks.

## दैनिक जागरण

### सीमाओं को अभेद्य बनाने में जुटी वायुसेना

जागरण संवाददाता, उत्तरकाशी : भारत-चीन सीमा पर वायुसेना और थल सेना का संयुक्त युद्धाभ्यास ऑपरेशन 'गगन शक्ति' दूसरे दिन भी चला। करीब चार घंटे तक वायुसेना के लड़ाकू और मालवाहक विमानों ने अभ्यास किया। उत्तराखंड में यह क्रम 20 अप्रैल तक चलेगा। गुरुवार को वायुसेना कुछ और विमानों को वहां उतार सकती है।

देशभर में आठ अप्रैल से युद्धाभ्यास की शुरुआत हुई थी, जो 22 अप्रैल तक चलेगा। उत्तराखंड में बुधवार को सुबह सात बजे से पूर्वाह्न 11 बजे तक युद्धाभ्यास चला। विमानों की गड़गड़ाहट सीमांत इलाके में रह रहे लोगों के लिए कौतूहल का वजह बनी रही। इस बीच अभियान के दूसरे दिन बुधवार सुबह सात बजे उत्तरकाशी, चिन्वालीसौड़ के साथ ही भारत-चीन सीमा के निकटवर्ती क्षेत्र हर्षिल व नेलांग घाटी में वायुसेना

के लड़ाकू विमान सुखोई-30 ने उड़ान भरी। चार घंटे के अंतराल में सुखोई ने सात चक्कर लगाए। इनमें कुछ ने देहरादून स्थित जौलीग्रॉंट हवाई अड्डे और कुछ ने उत्तर प्रदेश के इटावा स्थित सैफई हवाई अड्डे से उड़ानें भरीं।

इसी दरम्यान भारत-तिब्बत सीमा पुलिस (आइटीबीपी) के मातली स्थित हेलीपैड से वायु सेना के मालवाहक विमान एमआइ-17 ने उड़ानें भरीं। इन विमानों में वायुसेना के जांब्राजों ने हर्षिल, बगोरी और नेलांग घाटी तक तीन चक्कर लगाए। उत्तर प्रदेश निर्माण निगम के प्रोजेक्ट मैनेजर ने बताया कि चिन्वालीसौड़ हवाई पट्टी पर बुधवार को कोई विमान नहीं उतरा। इस हवाई पट्टी का निर्माण यही कंपनी कर रही है। उत्तरकाशी के अपर जिलाधिकारी पीएल शाह ने बताया कि जनपद में वायुसेना का सैन्य अभ्यास 20 अप्रैल तक चलेगा।

#### रक्षा मंत्री आज तेंगी युद्धाभ्यास का जायजा

जाब्त, नई दिल्ली : वायुसेना अब तक के सबसे बड़े युद्धाभ्यास गगनशक्ति में चीन से लगने वाली उत्तर और पूर्वी सरहद पर अपनी पूरी मारक क्षमता का प्रदर्शन कर रही है। रक्षा मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण गुरुवार को असम के लुबुआ एयर बेस जाकर गगनशक्ति युद्धाभ्यास में वायुसेना की मारक क्षमता का खुद जायजा लेंगी। इस अभ्यास में वायुसेना के सबसे बड़े मालवाहक जहाज सी-17 ग्लोबमास्टर, आइएल 76, सी 130 जे सुपर हरक्यूलिस जैसे विमानों की मदद से ऊंचे पहाड़ी इलाकों में जवानों को उतारने का अभ्यास किया जा रहा है।