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India's 1st Chief of Army Staff Gen Bipin Rawat to head dept of military affairs

The new department is an addition to the four existing verticals in the Union defence ministry—the departments of defence, defence production, defence research and development and ex-service welfare

By Rahul Singh

New Delhi: A gazette notification issued by the government on Monday created a new department of military affairs or Sainya Karta Vibhag that will be headed by India's first chief of defence staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat.

The new department is an addition to the four existing verticals in the Union defence ministry—the departments of defence, defence production, defence research and development and ex-service welfare.

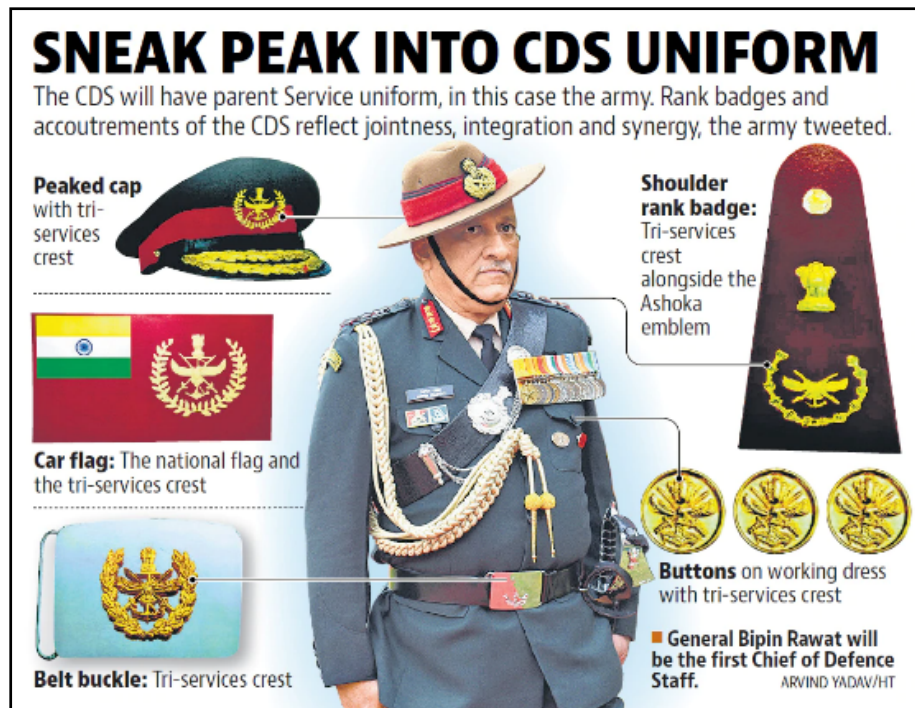
The government cleared the appointment of CDS on December 24 and appointed Rawat to the top post on Tuesday with effect from December 31. As CDS, Rawat will head the department of military affairs and act as the principal military adviser to the defence minister on all matters related to the tri-services.

Rawat will assume office on Wednesday after inspecting a tri-services guard of honour at the South Block lawns.

As announced by the government on December 24, the notification said the department of military affairs would handle the armed forces, integrated headquarters of the ministry of defence, the territorial army, procurement exclusive to services except capital acquisitions and jointness in procurement, training and staffing for the services through joint planning and integration of their requirements.

It said the department would also facilitate the restructuring of military commands for optimal utilisation of resources by bringing about jointness in operations, including through establishment of joint/theatre commands. It will also work towards promoting the use of indigenous equipment by the services at a time when the armed forces are heavily dependent on imported military hardware.

The department's mandate is to work exclusively on matters related to the armed forces. The ministry said the existing department of defence will deal with larger issues pertaining to the defence



of the country. The department of military affairs will be staffed by a mix of civilian and military officers.

While CDS will be in charge of tri-services organisations, their military command will be under the chief of the duly notified service, which has a predominant role in effective functioning of that specific tri-service organisation, the ministry said. However, tri-services agencies and commands related to cyber, space and special operations will be under the command of the CDS.

Just like the service chiefs, the CDS will be a member of the Defence Acquisition Council and the Defence Planning Committee. The appointment of the CDS was one of the most significant recommendations made by the K Subrahmanyam-led Kargil Review Committee (KRC) that was constituted in the immediate aftermath of the 1999 Kargil war to examine lapses that allowed Pakistani soldiers to occupy strategic heights, the initial sluggish Indian response, and suggest measures to strengthen national security. The KRC report was tabled in Parliament in February 2000.

A year later, in February 2001, a Group of Ministers (GoM), under then home minister LK Advani, submitted its report to then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The GoM was set up in April 2000 to review the national security system. It recommended that a CDS be appointed.

Successive governments failed to build political consensus on appointing a CDS. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on August 15, announced the creation of the new post.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/creation-role-of-dept-of-military-affairs-notified/story-okOp7hshvV4eE6kCNhgi2I.html>



Wed, 01 Jan 2020

Chief of Defence Staff to wear Army uniform, but will represent three services

Rawat will be wearing the army's olive green uniform. If the next CDS is from the air force and navy, the officer too will be wearing the uniform of his parent organisation.

However, in the CDS's uniform, the shoulder rank badges, belt buckle, peak cap and buttons on the working dress will symbolise the three services

By Shaurya Karanbir Gurung

New Delhi: India's first Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, from Wednesday will don his new uniform which will be of the army but will have major changes to represent the three defence services.

Rawat, who demitted as the Army Chief and handed over charge of the force to his successor General Manoj Mukund Naravane on Tuesday, will assume the office of the CDS on Wednesday. Rawat's new office is at South Block, where the army and naval headquarters are also located. The air force headquarters is at Vayu Bhawan, a few hundred metres away.

"Chief of the Defence Staff #CDS on assumption of appointment will have his office in South Block. #CDS shall have a parent service uniform. Rank badges & accoutrements of #CDS reflect #Jointness #Integration #Synergy," the army posted on its official Twitter handle.

Rawat will be wearing the army's olive green uniform. If the next CDS is from the air force and navy, the officer too will be wearing the uniform of his parent organisation. However, in the CDS's uniform, the shoulder rank badges, belt buckle, peak cap and buttons on the working dress will symbolise the three services. There will be no sword and baton and stars- representing rank- on the shoulder badges. The shoulder badge will be maroon and also have the Ashoka lion. The CDS will

also not have a lanyard. There will be no four stars on the collars that chiefs have. The car flag on the CDS's official vehicle will bear the national flag and also symbolise the three services.

Rawat, after receiving the guard of honour at South Block and paying tributes at the National War Memorial, told the media that his focus as the Army Chief was on restructuring the force, modernisation of weapon systems and non-contact warfare. When asked whether the army has been better equipped to handle challenges at India's borders with Pakistan and China, he said, "yes, they are better prepared".

Naravane also told a news agency that India reserves the right to preemptively strike at sources of terror threat if Pakistan does not stop state-sponsored terrorism. He explained that a strategy of "resolute punitive response" has been evolved to punish cross-border terrorism. On China, Naravane said that the focus has shifted from the western border to the northern border as part of rebalancing priorities. He added that the CDS will change the manner in which the defence establishment operates and bring military reforms.

Meanwhile, Rawat when asked by the media about his new role, said, "I will think over the new responsibilities given to me and prepare the strategy ahead."

Calling his successor, Naravane, a 'competent' officer, Rawat said, "I also wish to convey my best wishes to General Manoj Naravane, who will be assuming the office as 28th Chief of Army Staff. A very competent and capable officer. We are confident that his competence and professionalism will take this army to even greater heights."

"I wish to specifically convey my compliments to those soldiers who are deployed on the northern, western and our eastern borders, braving this winter cold and icy winds, as they stand steadfast, performing their role and tasks without hesitation," Rawat added.

The government has also created the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) or Sainya Karya Vibhag, which will be headed by Rawat as the CDS, according to a Cabinet Secretariat notification. The DMA will have under it the army, air force and navy, Headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff, procurement exclusive to the services, except capital acquisitions, ensuring jointness in training and planning, and facilitate restructuring of military commands by establishing joint theatre commands. Besides this, Rawat will administer tri-services organisations, head the tri-services agencies of cyber and space and be the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/chief-of-defence-staff-to-wear-army-uniform-but-will-represent-three-services/articleshow/73049102.cms?from=mdr>

तीनों सेनाओं की झलक, कंधे पर अशोक चिन्ह, ऐसी होगी CDS की वर्दी

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■ नई दिल्ली : देश के पहले चीफ ऑफ डिफेंस स्टाफ (सीडीएस) जनरल बिपिन रावत आज पद संभालेंगे। वह सुबह 10 बजे साउथ ब्लॉक में तीनों सेनाओं की तरफ से गार्ड ऑफ ऑनर का निरीक्षण करेंगे। सीडीएस का ऑफिस भी साउथ ब्लॉक में ही होगा। जनरल रावत पद संभालेंगे तो वह आर्मी की ओलिव ग्रीन रंग की यूनिफॉर्म में तो होंगे लेकिन उस यूनिफॉर्म में जो रैंक बैज और लोगो लगे होंगे वह तीनों सेनाओं (आर्मी, नेवी और एयरफोर्स) को दर्शाएंगे। सीडीएस की यूनिफॉर्म उनकी पैरेंट सर्विस वाली होगी। यानी सीडीएस बनने के बाद भी जनरल रावत ओलिव ग्रीन यूनिफॉर्म में दिखेंगे। अगर कभी एयरफोर्स या नेवी से सीडीएस बने तो उनकी बेसिक यूनिफॉर्म भी उनकी अपनी सर्विस की ही रहेगी। लोगो और बैज ट्राई सर्विस (तीनों सेना) को दिखाते हैं। सीडीएस के कैप में, जो लोगो होगा उसमें सेना का बेटन और क्रॉस सॉर्ड, एयरफोर्स का गरुण और नेवी का एंकर होगा। कार फ्लैग में भी तिरंगे के साथ यह लोगो होगा। फ्लैग मरून कलर का होगा। कंधे पर लगी पट्टी भी मरून कलर की होगी जिसमें अशोक स्तंभ और ट्राई सर्विस वाला लोगो होगा।

सरकार ने सैन्य मामलों का एक नया विभाग बनाया है जिसके प्रमुख जनरल बिपिन रावत होंगे

आज पद संभालेंगे



कुछ ऐसी होगी सीडीएस की कैप



सीडीएस का शोल्डर बैज ऐसा होगा।



सीडीएस की वर्किंग ड्रेस में ऐसे होंगे बटन।



सीडीएस के कार का फ्लैग कुछ ऐसा होगा

31 दिसंबर को आर्मी चीफ पद से रिटायर हुए थे

- आज चार्ज संभालेंगे देश के पहले सीडीएस जनरल बिपिन रावत
- आर्मी यूनिफॉर्म ही पहनेंगे पर रैंक बैज और लोगो होगा नया
- यूनिफॉर्म में नया लोग तीनों सेनाओं का होगा प्रतीक

थिएटर कमांड, बजट का बंटवारा अहम

सीडीएस की जिम्मेदारी संभालने के बाद जल्द ही सेना की थिएटर कमांड की स्टडी पर भी काम शुरू हो जाएगा। थिएटर कमांड में आर्मी, नेवी और एयरफोर्स के सभी संसाधन और मैनपावर एक ऑपरेशनल कमांडर के तहत होंगी।

सीडीएस का काम तीनों सेनाओं को मिलने वाले बजट में प्राथमिकता भी तय करना है। तीनों सेनाओं के लिए साजो सामान खरीद के जो प्रपोजल आएंगे उनमें जरूरत के हिसाब से सीडीएस प्राथमिकता तय करेंगे।

India gets a new CDS in Bipin Rawat, but is he the real boss?

An amendment in the charter of the defence secretary carved out a new Department of Military Affairs to be headed by the country's first Chief of Defence Staff

The government has amended the charter of the defence secretary to specifically include making of "defence policy" alongside his primary responsibility of "defence of India", while carving out a new Department of Military Affairs (DMA) to be headed by the country's first Chief of Defence Staff.

In a gazette order dated December 30, 2019, the government amended its relevant Rules of Business to remove four specific responsibilities from the Raksha Vibhag (Department of Defence), headed by the Defence Secretary, to bring them under the DMA but at the same time specified his primacy on policy matters and big ticket capital acquisition.

"Defence of India and every part thereof including defence policy and all such acts as may be conducive in times of war to its prosecution and after its termination to effective demobilization," states Entry 1 of the amended charter for the Raksha Vibhag.

In effect, sources said, any files related to defence policy issues would still have to pass through the Defence Secretary, thus removing ambiguity in how the CDS would function with the Department of Defence.

The other alteration is in the entry on defence purchases where the earlier formulation of "procurement exclusive to the defence services" has been replaced by "capital acquisition exclusive to the defence services". Other procurement has come under the CDS-led DMA. This essentially means that new big ticket weaponry purchase will still be within the ambit of the Defence Secretary.

Further, the National Defence College and the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis have been specifically brought under the Defence Secretary on grounds that their "remit is broader than military matters". At the same time, the order also amends the Transaction as well as Allocation of Rules of Business to include the DMA or the Sainya Karya Vibhag as the fifth new department in the Defence Ministry along with the departments of Defence, Defence Production, Defence Research and Development as well as Ex-Servicemen Welfare.

Each of these departments are headed by a Secretary-ranked officer, except the DMA where the CDS will be of cabinet secretary rank just like the three service chiefs. They all will report directly to the Defence Minister.

The four elements removed from the direct ambit of the Defence Secretary are the three armed services, their respective headquarters, the territorial army and works relating to the Army, Navy and Airforce.

These make up for four of the eight key responsibilities of the CDS-led DMA. The fifth is non-capital purchases while the other three relate to promoting jointness in procurement, training and operations besides encouraging use of indigenous equipment.

<https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-gets-a-new-cds-in-bipin-rawat-but-is-he-the-real-boss/73053781>

Army better prepared to face challenges on borders: Rawat

New Delhi: Newly-appointed first-ever Chief of Defence Staff(CDS) General Bipin Rawat on Tuesday said the focus on Army restructuring, weapon modernisation and non-contact warfare were some of the highlights of his tenure as Army Chief. The Army is “better prepared” to face any challenge that may come up at India's borders with Pakistan and China, Gen Bipin Rawat said.

He demitted office after retiring as the Army Chief and handing over the charge to incoming Chief M M Naravane. Some of the major artillery gun systems, including the M777 American Ultra Light Howitzers and the K-9 Vajra, and the Sig Sauer assault rifles were inducted into the force in his tenure.

“Till now I was Chief of Army Staff and my mandate was limited to the roles and responsibility I was assigned. Now when I am given a new responsibility, I will think and will work according to the new responsibility and vigour. If someone says that as Army Chief I was working towards whether I would be CDS it will be totally incorrect,” he said here after reviewing a ceremonial guard of honour outside South Block before retiring. He will assume the new responsibility on Wednesday. Rawat also said the army is better prepared to face any challenge from Pakistan and China.

It was Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself who broke the news to Rawat about his appointment as the CDS during the farewell dinner hosted by the former for the outgoing chief.

Ahead of his taking charge as the CDS, the Government has issued a notification setting up a new Department of Military Affairs (DMA) within the Ministry of Defence. The notification issued by the Cabinet Secretariat dated December 30, 2019 states that the CDS will head the DMA and function as a Secretary to the Government.

As per the guidelines approved by the Government last week, the CDS will be a four-star General and will also function as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister and as the Permanent Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).

The DMA will be the first department in the defence ministry. The existing ones are Department of Defence, Department of Defence Production, Department of Defence Research and Development and Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare.

The armed forces will be brought under the ambit of the DMA headed by the CDS who will deal with issues relating to the three Services and procurement exclusive to the Services except capital acquisitions, as per prevalent rules and procedures. The broad mandate of the CDS includes bringing about jointness in “operations, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance of the three Services, within three years of the first CDS assuming office.”

The mandate of the DMA includes promoting jointness in procurement, training and staffing for the Services through joint planning and integration of their requirements; facilitation of restructuring of Military Commands for optimal utilisation of resources by bringing about jointness in operations, including through establishment of joint/theatre commands and promoting use of indigenous equipment by the Services.

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2020/india/army-better-prepared-to-face-challenges-on-borders--rawat.html>

Gen Rawat's focus is on sub-conventional war

Given the border dispute with China and President Xi Jinping's declaration that not an inch of Chinese territory would be forsaken, India has a major problem at hand. To be sure, India's major threat is not terrorism or Pakistan. It is the PLA — whose capabilities are not adequately understood — and interoperability (ability to fight together against common enemy) between the PLA and Pakistan military

By Pravin Sawhney

For all the hype around the elevation of General Bipin Rawat as India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), the bitter truth is, it will not help in war preparedness. The CDS is likely to prepare the military to fight the wrong enemy, the wrong war, with wrong procurements, training and mindset. While it might help the Modi government politically, it would make India weak militarily.

As CDS, Gen Rawat would head the newly-created Department of Military Affairs (DMA), the fifth department in the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The other four are the departments of Defence, Research and Development, Production and Supplies, and Finance. The Defence Secretary will coordinate the activities of all five. Moreover, under the Government of India Rules of Business 1961, he will continue to be responsible for the defence of India.

By making a four-star and not a five-star CDS (as was recommended by the 2002 Group of Ministers' report headed by Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani), the Modi government has (a) ensured civilian control of defence ministry; (b) obviated (unfounded) fear of a military coup by a powerful CDS; (c) fulfilled the longstanding demand of CDS; and (d) retained Gen Rawat.

The twin-hatter CDS — as head of the Integrated Defence Headquarters (IDHQs) and permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) — will have four jobs. One, he will be answerable to the Defence Minister, like other secretaries in the MoD, along with the Defence Secretary. Two, on the military side, as head of the COSC, he would be the first among equals whose advice would be binding on the Services Chiefs. Three, he would do all that IDHQs had been doing — raised in 2001, the IDHQs have come a long way, performing a range of tasks, including procurements — better with his raised status and authority.

General Rawat's fourth and most important task would be 'facilitation of reconstructing of military or integrated theatre commands in three years. This is a problem area with deep implications. Given the uninspiring indigenous defence industrial base, frugal defence allocations, heavy dependence on imports and military lines to protect, tying down of limited military assets— especially belonging to the Air Force — in integrated theatre commands without proper assessment that it meets real threats and future warfare needs, would be disastrous.

Focussed on Pakistan, General Rawat believes the Indian military should prepare for hybrid warfare comprising the entire spectrum of war from sub-conventional (counter-terror) to conventional to nuclear level, to cyber war to psychological war to information (perception management) war, and so on. Speaking at the 'Army Technology Seminar' on December 23, he said: "While non-contact war will help give advantage, the man on the ground (soldier) will remain relevant." He added, "Quantum, space, cyber and artificial intelligence (AI) need to be leveraged in defence ecosystem." He is certainly not talking about the war that PLA — our main adversary — is furtively preparing itself for and giving sleepless nights to the powerful US military.

The PLA is preparing for conventional war which is transforming from real battlefields to virtual battlespace. There would be AI-backed intelligent computers (capable of learning, reacting and

problem-solving in fog of war better than humans) embedded in unmanned systems on land, air and sea. These intelligent and autonomous systems will communicate with one another in real time through networks which will be hugely vulnerable to cyber and electronic warfare. Given this, small networks supported by cloud architecture (with advanced computing powers) and data would be preferred to large networks in theatre commands. Jointness will give way to diverse small unmanned missions.

PLA's Strategic Support Force (SSF), created in 2015 and comprising cyber, electronic warfare, space and psychological warfare, will have the capability to end war before it starts. The SSF will destroy network nodes making communication on battlefields unsustainable. PLA's humongous cyber-attack capabilities could start war instantly, without warning, involving whole of the nation by shutting down all computer and telecommunication-connected commercial enterprises, creating havoc. So, cyber and space are not force multipliers, as Gen Rawat believes, but a potent force in new warfare.

There will be fewer humans and more machines fighting war. The intelligent cruise, ballistic and hypersonic missiles will be capable of reasoning on their own such that they would be able to change mission mid-course to hit a more dangerous target. At a panel discussion on 'AI in future warfare' at the 9th Xiangshan Forum in Beijing recently, the consensus was that the character of warfare would alter dramatically. In the next decade or so, by the time India's integrated theatre (military) commands fructify and all Integrated Battle Groups (brainchild of General Rawat) become operational, the war would have changed: from information to intelligent warfare. It would be both a non-contact and software-driven invisible war, with few or no soldiers, all by 2035.

The word 'quantum' that General Rawat used casually is a different ballgame. It would propel warfare to the next level — from intelligent to quantum warfare where China has invested more finances and effort in quantum sciences (including computers) than the US. In quantum warfare, things will be superimposed — one thing will exist at two places at the same time. Sounds unbelievable, that is what it would be by 2040.

Indian military is oblivious to all this because it has been fighting terrorism since 1990, a war it cannot win. Given the border dispute with China and President Xi Jinping's declaration that not an inch of Chinese territory would be forsaken, India has a major problem at hand. To be sure, India's major threat is not terrorism or Pakistan. It is the PLA — whose capabilities are not adequately understood — and interoperability (ability to fight together against common enemy) between the PLA and Pakistan military.

The PLA — focussed on the US military — started conceptualising its military reforms from 2010, and finally announced them in 2015. In India, without a clear understanding of threats and future warfare, work to raise integrated theatre commands has begun with General Rawat as the CDS. Everything else, from joint procurements, training, logistics and operations will not amount to future war preparedness, which is what the CDS is meant to deliver. In any case, General Rawat's focus — since he is a counter-terror expert — will be on sub-conventional war. This will help the government which has declared terrorism as a threat to India. But it will not make India militarily strong.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/gen-rawat%E2%80%99s-focus-is-on-sub-conventional-war-19919>

Role needs to be defined at places, but CDS to give strategic direction

Dealing with bureaucracy will be a challenge for the Chief of Defence Staff



ARVIND GUPTA

General Bipin Rawat took over as the country's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) from 1 January, 2020. The Prime Minister deserves the credit for implementing a recommendation made in 2001 by a Group of Ministers on national security, headed by the then deputy Prime Minister LK Advani. The expectation is that higher defence management will improve significantly with the appointment of the CDS.

The government's own press release defines the CDS appointment as a "landmark" decision. CDS will give "effective leadership" to the services at the top level of decision making, improve coordination amongst the three services, and prepare them better to deal with rapidly changing security environment and the changing nature of warfare.

To accommodate the CDS in the higher defence organisation, the government has decided to create a brand new Department of Military Affairs (DMA) in the Ministry of Defence.

The DMA will deal with the "Armed Forces of the union namely the Army Navy and Air Force... integrated headquarters of the Ministry of Defence comprising Army headquarters, Naval headquarters, air headquarters and defence staff headquarters." It will

also oversee "procurement exclusive to the services except capital acquisitions".

The CDS will also be the permanent Chairman of the Committee of Chiefs of Staff, a member of the Defence Acquisition Council headed by the Raksha Mantri, Defence Planning Committee headed by the NSA, military advisor to the Nuclear Command Authority". He will also act as the principal military adviser to defence minister on all tri-service matters. But the three Chiefs will continue to advise the RM on matters exclusively concerning their respective services. His role in these capacities will require further elaboration.

It is clear that higher defence management structures will now have an additional person in the shape of the CDS. His relationship with the three Chiefs and the

Defence Secretary has not been defined clearly in the press release. His role as a military adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority too is not defined. According to the rules of business, defence secretary is responsible for the defence

of the country. Will this position change with the appointment of the CDS? Probably not because the CDS is responsible only for military affairs whereas defence is a much wider concept. The efficacy of the CDS will depend on the qual-

ity of his relations with the Chiefs and the Defence Secretary.

The efficacy of the DMA will depend upon its structure, manning and professionalisation. It should have a healthy mix of serving officers and domain experts. Whether the appointment of the CDS will lead to professionalisation of the Ministry of Defence remains to be seen.

Several aspects of the CDS's roles and responsibilities need greater clarity. This, hopefully, will emerge in due course. However, some tasks are cut out for him. To begin with, he can persuade the government to come out with a national security strategy from where coordinated defence doctrines will follow. He can also build the newly created tri-service cyber agency. Using his status and authority, he should cut the red tape, which has held up reforms in the procurement, make in

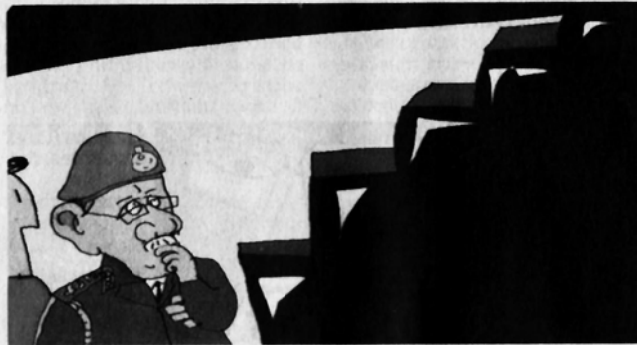
JUST THE BEGINNING



With appointment of CDS, the roles of other MoD departments will also be re-examined

India, indigenous and other areas. One hopes that with the appointment of the CDS, the roles and functions of the other departments in the MoD will also be re-examined so that military and civilian bureaucracy work together in the interest of the country. Dealing with bureaucracy will be a challenge for the CDS.

The writer is former deputy National Security Advisor



ANIRBAN BORA

India can pre-emptively strike at terror sources: Army Chief

New Delhi: Maintaining that a strategy of “resolute punitive response” has been evolved to punish cross-border terrorism, new Army Chief Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane on Tuesday issued a strong warning to Pakistan saying India reserves the right to preemptively strike at sources of terror threat if the neighbouring country does not stop State-sponsored terrorism. As for China, General Naravane said India will continue to improve capability building along the Northern border.

General Naravane assumed charge here as the 28th Chief of Army Staff from outgoing chief General Bipin Rawat who handed over the baton to his successor in a ceremony in South Block. He is the third Army Chief from the Sikh Light Infantry after VP Malik and Bikram Singh.

Naravane was serving as the Vice Chief of Army since early September. Prior to that he served as the Eastern Army Commander and Commander Army Training Command (ARTRAC).

“The Pakistan Army's proxy war design received setback due to elimination of terrorists and decimation of terror networks (by India),” he told news agencies after taking charge.

Asked how he will deal with Pakistan backed terrorism, he said, “Multiple options across the spectrum of conflict are on the table to respond to any act of terror sponsored or abetted by Pakistan.”

On security challenges along the 3,500-km border with China, Gen Naravane said the focus has shifted from the Western border to the Northern border as part of re-balancing priorities. “We will continue to improve capability building along the Northernborder so we are prepared when the need arises,” he said.

Referring to the appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff, he said it will greatly change the way the defence establishment operates and will bring about significant reforms in the entire military system.

He said his main focus as Army chief will be to make the Army ready to face any threat at any time. According to him, the bottomline for reform in the Army will be to increase efficiency and operational readiness.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy(NDA) and the Indian Military Academy(IMA), Naravane was commissioned into the 7th Battalion, the Sikh Light Infantry in June 1980. He has commanded a Rashtriya Rifles battalion in Kashmir, served in the Assam Rifles and has been part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka during 'Operation Pawan'. He has also served as Defence Attache to Myanmar.

He did his schooling at Dnyana Prabodhinee Prashala, Pune. He holds a Master's Degree in Defence Studies, M. Phil Degree in Defence and Management Studies and is currently pursuing his Doctorate.

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2020/india/india-can-pre-emptively-strike-at-terror-sources--army-chief.html>

Naravane, a China and counter terror expert

Given India's security challenges in Kashmir and the north-east, and the strategic competition with China, his experience will carry great value in national security decision-making

By Rahul Singh

New Delhi: The new Chief of the Indian Army, General Manoj Mukund Naravane, is considered a China expert and has vast experience in counter terror operations in Jammu and Kashmir and the north-east.

Given India's security challenges in Kashmir and the north-east, and the strategic competition with China, his experience will carry great value in national security decision-making.

The 59-year-old general will serve in the top position for two years and four months. Service chiefs can serve for a maximum term of three years or till they attain the age of 62, whichever is earlier.

A big challenge for Naravane will be to ensure the army gets money to power its modernisation programmes. Currently, the three services are battling a funds crunch that could hit critical weapons procurement plans.

Before taking over as Chief, Naravane was the army's vice chief. He had headed the Kolkata-based Eastern Command.

In appointing Naravane as army chief, the government has gone by seniority.

Naravane also takes over as chief at a time when the biggest exercise in independent India's history to restructure the force is underway.

The restructuring drill, based on four comprehensive studies led by the army's topmost generals, could change the complexion and direction of the 1.2 million-strong Indian Army.

In his 39-year military career, Naravane has commanded a Rashtriya Rifles battalion, raised an infantry brigade, led a strike corps and headed the Army Training Command. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Naravane was part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka and has also served as India's defence attache to Myanmar.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/naravane-a-china-and-counterterror-expert/story-cuc2s9fIp60x72MYerFRrN.html>

Chandrayaan-3 could cost lesser, likely to be launched in 2020, says govt

Chandrayaan-2 mission was India's first attempt to land on lunar surface

New Delhi: India will launch Chandrayaan-3 in 2020, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Tuesday, asserting that the mission cost will be less than Chandrayaan-2.

Singh, who is the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, said it is wrong to term Chandrayaan-2 as a disappointment since it was India's maiden attempt to land on the lunar surface and no country could do so in its first attempt.

"Yes, the lander and rover mission will mostly likely happen in 2020. However, as I have said before, the Chandrayaan-2 mission cannot be called a failure as we have learnt a lot from it. There is no country in the world that has landed on its first attempt. The US took several attempts. But we will not need so many attempts," Singh said.

He added that the experience gathered from Chandrayaan-2 and available infrastructure will bring down the cost of Chandrayaan-3.

He, however, declined to specify the month of the third lunar mission launch.

Chandrayaan-2 mission was India's first attempt to land on lunar surface. The ISRO had planned the landing on the South Pole of the lunar surface. However, the lander Vikram hard-landed.

In written response to a question in the Winter session of Parliament, Singh said, "The velocity was reduced from 1683 m/s to 146 m/s. During the second phase of the descent, the reduction in velocity was more than the designed value. Due to this deviation, the initial conditions at the start of the fine braking phase were beyond the designed parameters. As a result, Vikram hard landed within 500 m of the designated landing site.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/irso-to-launch-chandrayaan-3-in-2020-119123101231_1.html

IIT-M tech fest Shaastra from Jan 3-6

IIT-Madras will host Shaastra 2020, one of the largest student-run tech festivals in India between January 3-6. This will be the 20th edition of the annual event.

Chennai: IIT-Madras will host Shaastra 2020, one of the largest student-run tech festivals in India between January 3-6. This will be the 20th edition of the annual event. The theme for this year is 'Parsec to Plank,' focussing on miniaturisation, the technological trend in which the sizes of mechanical, electronic and optical products are constantly being scaled down in size while maintaining the same or a superior quality.

Professor Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director, IIT-M said, "Various parts of the institute are connected to Shaastra and through this event, they learn how to go beyond the classroom and reach out to a large student community across the country."

This year, students introduced 'Assistive Technology (AT) Makeathon' in collaboration with IIT TTK Centre for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2), which developed India's first indigenously designed standing wheelchair. This will help enhance quality of life for the elderly, adults and children with disabilities. Updates about Shaastra can also be obtained on their social media channels.

Innovation Nearly 40 events and 30 workshops have been scheduled this year, with a total footfall of over 40,000 students, participants and visitors expected, the statement said, adding that exhibition featuring student innovations, startups and visiting college teams is being organised at the KV Grounds on all four days.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2020/jan/01/iit-m-tech-fest-shaastra-from-jan-3-6-2083393.html>