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Smart Theatre Command

A Pre-requisite for to a Joint Theatre Command



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Air Marshal (Dr) Rajeev Sachdeva, in his last appointment, served as Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff and also officiated as Additional Secretary (Air) at DMA, under CDS MoD. He was the Chairman of SCAPCC and Member Secretary of Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Raksha Mantri. Co-authored the DAP-2020 and promulgated the first 'Negative Import List'. Chairman of the Integrated Space Cell of Armed Forces and the Technical Evaluation Team for BMD by DRDO; Co-Chair DIATF with US for development of niche capabilities; Steered the projects for NFS & DCN.

Cat 'A' Qualified Flying Instructor was an Air Force Examiner with over 7200 hours on various Transport and Trainer aircraft. He Commanded an Operational flying Squadron and also one of the largest Air Force Base at Chandigarh.

Smart Theatre Command

A Pre-requisite for to a Joint Theatre Command

Abstract

Creation of the post of the Chief of Defence Staff and the Department of Military Affairs was a historical moment for the Indian Armed Forces and has infused the Military into National Security Mechanism. Government of India, as of 1st Jan 2020, carved out Allocation of Business (AOB) Rules for the Secretary DMA, directly tasking the CDS to restructure the Military Organisation and create Theatre Commands.

On 15th August 2019, the Hon'ble PM said, “World is changing today, as also the scope and nature of war. It is becoming technology driven...India too should not have fragmented approach. Our entire military power will have to work in unison and move forward.” “There should be good coordination and it should be relevant with the hope and aspirations of our people.”

This can only happen firstly, with the whole of nation approach and secondly if the three Services join up at the

drawing board and create an *interoperable environment*, fuse the *intelligence*, create a *common battle field milieu*, have a *seamless connectivity*, write a *joint perspective plan*, create a *joint capability*, with common Cyber, Mobility, Space, Logistics, Communication, Networking, Training (Common), Maintenance, Intelligence, Surveillance (Satellites / UAS), Air Defence, Capability Building, Acquisition, Military Diplomacy, Common HR issues, Common legal Act, Disaster Management, AI, Drones milking, Info sharing and Codification.

To operationalise and fight a war through a Joint Theater Command, the three Services will have to *start thinking together, plan together and train together* for this a *Smart Theatre Command is a pre-requisite to a Joint Theatre Command*.

Revolution in Military Affairs

A revolution in military affairs (RMA) refers to a significant change in the nature of warfare brought about by the innovative application of new technologies, which may radically alter the strategic balance of power. An RMA can involve the introduction of new weapons systems, the development of new tactics and operational concepts, or the adoption of new organizational and management structures. It can also involve the *integration of various elements of military power*, such as information, logistics, and intelligence, in new and innovative ways like the development of gunpowder, the industrialisation of warfare, and the introduction of nuclear weapons.

The concept of a revolution in military affairs is important because it highlights the potential for rapid and significant changes in the way wars are fought and won. These changes can have far-reaching consequences for the strategic balance of power, as they can give rise to new dominant military capabilities and render existing ones obsolete. RMAs can also have significant economic and social impacts, as they often require significant investments in new technologies and military capabilities.

Indian Leadership and the RMA

On 15th August 2019, from the portals of the Red Fort, the Prime Minister announced the post of the CDS and said that it was a compelling task of the Government to do so and thus on *1st January 2020 the Indian Armed Forces got its first Chief of Defence Staff*.

After creation of the Integrated HQ (IDS) on 1st Oct 2001, the announcement of the post of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) was a historical moment

for the Armed Forces and brought to closure one of the longest standing demands of the Armed Forces for decades.

CDS wears a triple hat:-

Firstly, that of the Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS).

Secondly, permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).

Thirdly, Secretary of an independent Department of the Ministry of Defence (DMA).

Government of India, as of 1st Jan 2020, carved out *Allocation of Business (AOB) Rules* for the Secy. DMA, by transferring some of the AOB of the Defence Secretary to the Secretary DMA and these are:-

- The Armed Forces of the Union, namely, Army, Navy and Air Force.
- The Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence comprising of Army, Naval, Air and Integrated Defence Staff Headquarters.
- The Territorial Army.
- Works relating to Army, Navy and Air Force.
- Procurement excluding to the Services except capital acquisition.

The New AOB rules towards Nation building were also included for the Secy. DMA / CDS and these are:-

- *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 *establishing of Joint / Theatre Commands*.
- *Promoting use of indigenous equipment* by the Services.

The CDS, apart from being the Secretary of a newly created Department, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), is also the Permanent Chairman of COSC and is the Principal Advisor to the Government on all the matters pertaining to Military.

The Allocation of Business Rules for the DMA also *tasks the CDS to restructure the Military Organisation and create Theatre Commands*.

Restructuring of Military Commands

One of the AOB Rule for Secy. DMA is that of facilitation of *restructuring* of Military Commands by bringing about *jointness in operations*, including through *establishing of Joint / Theatre Commands*.

Therefore, the theaterisation thought process has commenced and once it is finalised and implemented, the Theatre Commanders are likely to take over the operational responsibilities and thus the restructuring would have to be in sync with this concept in mind.

Functioning of Theatre Commander is only possible under a '*Whole of Nation Approach*', with Political Leadership and concerned Ministries (CCS, RM, NSA, MoD, MHA, MEA, Department of Space, MeitY, Ministry of Communication and IT, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Civil Aviation, etc.),

work in tandem towards the greater National Vision under the Directive of the CCS.

Threat Perception and the National Security Strategy

With a land frontier of over 15,000 kms, 7,500 kms of coast line, 1,382 islands and two active adversaries located alongside, India is beset with huge security challenges. Unity of Command, which'll synergies the military plans and resources, against an identified security threat, is the need of the hour.

Considering the geographical expanse, terrain obtaining astride the frontiers and foreseeable continuation of resource crunch, the Indian Theaterisation Model may well be a workable mix of '*Geographic, Functional and Resource Integration Model*'.

Theatre Commanders and the National Security

A Theatre, in the context of military operations, refers to a geographic area in which military operations take place. The term is often used to describe the area of operations for a particular military campaign or conflict.

Theatres are important for military operations because they provide a way to organise and focus the efforts of military forces in a specific geographic area. By dividing a large area of operations into smaller, more manageable theatres, military commanders are better able to coordinate and direct the actions of their forces.

Theatre-level planning and operations also allow military commanders to take into account the unique characteristics and challenges of the specific geographic area in which they are operating. This includes factors such as terrain, climate, infrastructure, and the presence of other military or civilian organizations.

Some specific tasks that the Theatre Commander will be responsible for include:

- Developing and implementing plans for military operations in his area of responsibility (AOR)
- Coordinating the deployment and employment of military forces.
- Providing guidance and direction to subordinate commanders.
- Allocating resources (e.g., personnel, equipment, supplies) to support operations.
- Establishing and maintaining relationships with foreign military and civilian leaders.
- Providing updates and reports to higher headquarters on the status of progress of operations.
- To sustain military operations, manage and coordinate logistics and support functions (e.g., transportation, communication, maintenance).
- Managing the movement and deployment of military forces
- Ensuring the safety and security of personnel and resources within the theatre
- Maintaining situational awareness and responding to emerging threats.

Overall, the use of theatres in military operations helps to ensure that military resources are used efficiently and effectively to achieve the desired strategic objectives.

In the case of India, potential operational theatres could be based on the country's various geographic regions, such as the Himalayan

region in the north, the coastal regions on the east and west, and the central and southern regions. The size and specific boundaries of these theatres would depend on the specific military objectives and the nature of the operations being conducted.

Joint Operational Planning Process (JOPP)

For the conduct of operations in a joint environment the 'Joint Operational Planning Process' is the pre-requisite for Joint Operations and thus a tool for the Joint / Theatre Commander.

JOPP helps commanders and their staff to organise their planning activities connect with all the operational commanders both, in the planning room and the field of operations, share the battle field milieu, commander's intent and develop effective plans, factoring the Commander's Critical Intelligence Requirements.

The entire operational process starts on receipt of the Operational Directives of the highest authority responsible for war outcomes. The Theatre Commander, thereafter will review and analyse the orders, guidance, intelligence and other information to gain an understanding of the situation mentioned in the operational directive and prepare the initial planning guidance in assessment of operations.

Theatre Command in Indian Context

The Theatre Commander, under the guidance of the COSC, will be responsible to:-

- Carry out Joint Operations Appreciation.
- Make a Commander's Estimate of the Situation.
- Define Military Strategic Objectives towards the desired political End State.

- Define Centre of Gravity for the operations.
- Activate Integrated Operations Room for monitoring of situation in various theatres and sub-theatres of operations.
- Monitor conduct of operations and provide regular updates to the CCS.
- Draw up critical deficiencies in force capabilities, and ensure timely procurement actions.
- Theatre Commanders will be responsible towards the national Ssecurity and thus:-
- Defend the Indian landmass, the island territories and the coastline against threats from land, sea or the medium of aerospace.
- Conduct all combat operations during war, No War No Peace and military response(s) short of war, as per the national Directives.
- Formulate Vision, Strategy and Direction with respect to the conduct of operations in his Theatre.
- Ensure operational readiness and training of assets for all missions through joint operational training and exercises.
- Coordinate with other Theatre Commanders in peace, crisis and conflict to ensure unity of effort and synergy in effect.
- Ensure jointness in operations, training, logistics, transport, support services, communications, maintenance, ISR, Cyber, Space and nuclear domains.
- Preparation of Annual Review of Theatre Perspective Plans.
- Issue exercise and mobilization instructions as per Operational Plans.

- Formulate and plan the Theatre Training Policy and Tactical Doctrines.

Theatre Commander as an overall Operational Commander of his theatre will not only have a seamless connect with GOC-in-C, AOC-in-C, FOC-in-C and his Joint Operations Centre but also with the CCS, RM, NSCS, COSC and all the other ministries of Govt. of India.

Joint Andaman Nicobar Theatre Command

A Joint Command, Andaman Nicobar Command, was created in Sep 2001 with its headquarters at Port Blair is the first and only Tri-Service Theatre Command of the Indian Armed Forces, operating directly under the COSC to protect the strategic interests of India in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The vision statement '*Act as a Point organisation for Jointmanship in Ministry of Defence which integrates policy, doctrine, warfighting and procurement by employing best management practices*'.

Units of all the three Services, namely, Indian Army, Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force, along with the Indian Coast Guard are placed under the command of the CINCAN, the Commander in Chief of the ANC.

However, the Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) at the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) faces several constraints in fulfilling its mission. Some of these constraints¹ include:-

- **Limited resources:** The ANC is a tri-service command, but it has been criticized for not having enough resources to carry out its mission effectively².

- **Inter-service coordination:** The ANC is a tri-service command, but there have been reports of lack of coordination among the different branches of the military that make up the command.
- **Limited intelligence:** The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are situated in an area of great strategic importance, but the CINCAN has limited intelligence capabilities to monitor the activities of other countries in the region.
- **Limited budget:** The budget allocation to the command is limited and thus the command has to make do with limited resources.
- **Limited communication:** The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are remote and sparsely populated, which makes it difficult to maintain reliable communication with the Indian mainland and other military commands.
- **Limited command-and-control infrastructure:** The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are remote and the command-and-control infrastructure is limited.
- **Limited transportation:** The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are situated in the Bay of Bengal, which is far from the Indian mainland. This makes it difficult for the CINCAN to rapidly deploy troops and equipment to the islands in case of a crisis.
- **Limited logistics:** The ANC's logistics capabilities are limited, which makes it difficult to sustain operations in the islands.
- **Limited Decision-Making Capabilities:** The CINCAN might have limited decision-making capabilities due to lack of real-time information, lack of intelligence and limited communication capabilities.

Smart Theatre Command

The author, from his experience of having served as an Air Officer in all the four verticals of the Integrated Defence Staff at the HQ IDS, the College of Defence Management, at the DMA and has thus coined this new term of '***Smart Theatre Command***'.

A Geographical or Functional or Hard Theatre Command will not satisfy the concerns expressed by the honorable Prime Minister on 15th August 2019 in his speech from the portals of Red Fort, till the three Services fuse the *intelligence* to identify a common *threat perception*, amalgamate their *assets*, create an *interoperable environment*, view a *common battle field milieu*, have a *seamless connectivity*, write a *joint perspective plan* and finally *identify a joint capability* required to counter the common threats leading to the future wars.

Fuse the Intelligence to Identify National Threat Perception

There are four Military agencies gathering intelligence and the repository of intelligence information is respectively secured with the four individual Services, namely, Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and the DGDIA at HQ IDS. Even though the relevant intelligence is shared amongst the Services and the NSCS, it still restricts itself to Service specific threat perceptions. However, a single *Joint National threat perception* needs to be identified from the intelligence gathered by the respective Services and should be amalgamated as a *National Military Threat* under the CDS at DIA.

***“Create a Smart Intelligence Agency:
A Pre-requisite to a Joint Theatre Command”***

Seamlessly Connect the Three Services

The connectivity comes from the medium of terrestrial and space spectrums, sensors and networks. In an AI, M2M and IOT environment, the Armed Forces are entangled into so many sensors, networks and mediums and have hardened walls and don't let one Service seamlessly connect with another Service.

Spectrum is scarce and the commercial usage has promised \$1 trillion to the Indian \$5 trillion dream. As per National Frequency Allocation Plan-81 (NFAPF-81), Defence was the major user of spectrum across the full frequency bands, however, with the invention of mobile telephony, from NFAP-99 onwards, Defence is no longer the major user. The cost of the spectrum being used by the Armed Forces, which is mandatory to keep the nation secure, could cost upto a full one year's budget of the Government of India.

For a Joint Theatre to be functional a solution has to found and *reduce the networks, mediums and sensors* by not only migrating to the new way of communicating but also by integrating the resources and the output of these sensors.

Today terms used by the three Services in the arena of spectrum and networks are many and mindboggling. Networking and communication have to be simplified and seamlessly integrated amongst the three Services. *Form factors and the wave forms have to be redesigned* to get the best results and be cost effective.

“Smartly use Scarce and Expensive Spectrum: A Pre-requisite to a Joint Theatre Command”

Space Communication

During the 18th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit held in Nepal in 2014, the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, mooted the idea of a satellite serving the needs of SAARC member nations as a part of his neighbourhood first policy.

On 5th May 2017, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched *South Asia Satellite, GSAT-9*, a geostationary communications and meteorology satellite, for the SAARC region was launched on 5 May 2017. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka are the users of the multi-dimensional facilities provided by GSAT-9 satellite.

GSAT-7/7R are the Naval Satellites, GSAT-7A is an Air Force Satellite and GSAT-7B will be an Army Satellite. When India can bring the neighbours on one satellite, then how can the Satellite communication in the Armed Forces have a *Services specific tag to satellites*? Time has come to join up on the drawing board and the military needs to economise even this resource.

“Common Smart Space Communication: A Pre-requisite to a Joint Theatre Command”

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)³

Unmanned aerial systems (UAS), Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAV) or combat drones are equipped with advanced hardware such as sensors and cameras and are remotely operated without necessarily risking the lives of soldiers and it has revolutionised

military operations which can now destroy maximum enemies but sacrifice a minimum.

In India, the military has been using drones for various purposes like reconnaissance and surveillance for a long time. They have been using both indigenous and imported drones for these purposes. India has been developing its own military drones and has also been importing advanced military drones from other countries. These drones have been used in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations, as well as for reconnaissance and surveillance, payload delivery, electronic warfare, search and rescue, border and coastal security and training.

The world's largest drone festival held in May 2022 was inaugurated by Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, who shared his confidence in the young talents of India and India's rising capability in the drone sector. However, like the satellites, the three Services, despite the purchase from the same OEM, own and operate their respective UAS and are *yet to seamlessly connect the real-time information* with one another.

“Sharing Smart Real-Time Reconnaissance of all Military UAS: A Pre-requisite to a Joint Theatre Command”

A1 Defence Land

"A1 Defence Land" refers to the land that is reserved for the exclusive use of the armed forces, and is typically used for training, accommodation, and other military purposes. In India, the allocation and distribution of A1 Defence Land is governed by the Defence of India Rules, which were last updated in 1971 and the Army, Navy, and Air Force are all allocated A1 Defence Land for their exclusive use by the Ministry of Defence through a "Land Management and

Development" department.

Transfer of AI Defence Land from the Army to the Air Force or vice-versa is typically done through a process known as “re-allocation.” The process of re-allocation typically begins with the Ministry of Defence issuing a notice of re-allocation, which is then advertised in the media and local newspapers. The notice provides details of the land that is proposed to be re-allocated and invites objections or claims from interested parties.

After the notice period, the Ministry of Defence considers any objections or claims that have been made and makes a decision on the re-allocation of the land. If the re-allocation is approved, the Ministry of Defence issues an order transferring the land from the Army to the Air Force. The order is then published in the official gazette, and the Air Force takes possession of the land, which is still subject to the court's jurisdiction in case of disputes.

This discouraging process and policy of land sharing between the three Services needs a relook and the land usage should be dictated by the national security needs and not as per the stringent policies of the early 1970s.

***“Smart and Joint usage of AI Defence land:
A Pre-requisite to a Joint Theatre Command”***

Supply Chain Management

To give a fillip to the country's logistics sector, in September 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the National Logistics Policy (NLP)⁴ in what's billed as the country's first holistic approach for the \$200 billion sector. This policy will bring in an integrated and technology enabled approach to logistics operations to bridge

the efficiency gap.

The key objectives would be to make Indian logistics competitive in terms of global standards. Some key thrusts include, Integration of Digital System (IDS), Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP), Ease of Logistics (ELOG), System Improvement Group (SIG).

PM Modi added that turnaround time of container vessels at ports has been reduced from 44 hours to 26 hours. New eco-friendly waterways are being setup, 40 air cargo terminals have been setup to facilitate exports, 30 airports have cold storage facilities and 35 multi modal logistics facilities are being setup.

According to the PM, India has to bring down the logistics cost of 13-14% of GDP to single digits. “It is a low-hanging fruit to be globally competitive”.

IAF has its own ***‘Integrated Material Management On-line System’*** (IMMOLS)⁵, an on-line Material management system that ensures transparency and improves planning across the Indian Air Force (IAF). IMMOLS is used for transparency of inventory, location of items, the ideal places to move them to, monitoring of the trend of consumption & planning and calculation of procurement accordingly and has made the IAF more equipped, agile, and robust to effectively handle any contingencies and benefiting from better cost management.

The Indian Navy has its own ***‘Chief System Administrator Integrated Logistics Management System’*** (CSAILMS) is the lead organisation for all system Administrator located in material organisations at various locations in the country and is responsible for promulgation of technical and administrative directives for maintenance and upgradation of the inventory management software of the Indian

Navy. In addition, the systems Administrator also monitors the functioning of integrated Clothing Management System (ICMS) and Integrated Victualling Management System (IVMS).

The Armed Forces have established three Joint Logistics Nodes (JLN) at Mumbai, Guwahati and Port Blair. These JLN's will provide integrated logistics cover to the Armed Forces for their *small arms ammunition, rations, fuel, general stores, civil hired transport, aviation clothing, spares and also engineering support only* in an effort to synergize their operational efforts. It would accrue advantages in terms of saving of manpower, economical utilisation of resources, besides financial savings.

This is the precursor to the joint logistics command which is being planned and is imperative for the optimisation of the combat potential of integrated theatres, because over a million lines have to get integrated and will be a task as the IMMOLS and CSAILMS can't be integrated and thus the visibility of the millions of lines of inventory remains within each service. Nation is joining up through the NLP and the Services need to think jointly and have a joint supply chain management system.

“Nation has a Smart National Logistics Policy - so should the Military: A Pre-requisite to a Joint Theatre Command”

Joint Capability Building

In 2012, the Services drew out their respective Long Term Perspective Plans for 15 years, which were integrated at HQ IDS as *Long-Term Integrated Perspective Plan 2012-27*, commonly addressed as LTIPP 2012-27. The DRDO, thereafter, drew out their *Technology Perspective and Capability Roadmap* in 2015 in sync with the LTIPP.

By 31st March 2023, 73% of the time period of the LTIPP 2012-27 would have elapsed a simple introspection would tell us if we have been able to fill all the voids as envisaged and has India become technology self-reliant to fill these voids as given in the Technology Perspective and Capability Roadmap (TPCR).

The Hon'ble Prime Minister in his speech from the portals of Red Fort said *"Things cannot move smoothly if any of the Services is ahead of the balance two Services. All should move simultaneously at the same pace. There should be good coordination and it should be relevant with the hope and aspirations of our people. It should be in line with the changing security environment in the World today"*

The PM has very clearly spoken about the *disjointed and silos approach* towards the growth of the three Services.

LTIPP 2012-27 was a step towards identifying both, the voids and capability required, individually by the three Services. However, time has come that the Services join up to identify the threat commonly and the national capability required to counter that threat, which should jointly lead to the requirement of military technology capability. The technology capability build up should be a whole Nation approach and not only the responsibility of the DRDO.

CDS has already initiated the *Integrated Capability Development (ICAD)*, towards this new joint approach and has to be synchronised with the anticipated budgetary allotment for the next 10 years.

***"Smart Integration of Joint Military Capability:
A Pre-requisite to a Joint Theatre Command"***

Conclusion

Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) is a term used to describe

the transformation of military doctrines, strategies, and technologies that result in a significant change in the conduct of warfare.

The history of warfare is full of examples of revolutions in military affairs that have led to significant changes in the way wars are fought. The development of gunpowder and the invention of the longbow, for instance, transformed the way wars were fought in medieval Europe. The development of the tank, aircraft, and submarines during World War I and II revolutionized the conduct of warfare.

In the modern era, RMA refers to the integration of advanced technologies such as unmanned aerial vehicles, precision-guided munitions, and cyber warfare into military operations. These technologies allow for faster, more precise, and more efficient military operations. They have also led to changes in military doctrines and operational concepts. The focus has shifted from the massing of forces to the integration of technology, intelligence, and networked command and control systems.

The RMA has had a significant impact on the nature of warfare. The use of precision-guided munitions, for example, has reduced the number of casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure during conflicts. The use of unmanned aerial vehicles has allowed for the gathering of real-time intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. Cyber warfare has become an essential tool for disrupting the enemy's command and control systems and disabling their critical infrastructure.

The RMA has also led to changes in the way wars are fought. The focus has shifted from the linear battles of the past to irregular and asymmetric conflicts. The emphasis is on gaining and maintaining situational awareness and being able to respond rapidly to changing

situations. The use of Special Forces and elite units has become more prevalent in modern warfare. The objective is to strike at the enemy's weaknesses and disrupt their ability to fight.

The RMA is an ongoing process, and the future of warfare will undoubtedly be shaped by the continued evolution of military technology and doctrine.

The Hon'ble PM said, *“World is changing today, as also the scope and nature of war. It is becoming technology driven...India too should not have fragmented approach. Our entire military power will have to work in unison and move forward.”*

This can only happen firstly, with the *whole of Nation approach* and secondly if the three Services join up at the drawing board and create an *interoperable environment*, fuse the *intelligence*, create a *common battle field milieu*, have a *seamless connectivity*, write a *joint perspective plan*, create a *joint capability*, with common Cyber, Mobility, Space, Logistics, Communication, Networking, Training (Common), Maintenance, Intelligence, Surveillance (Satellites / UAS), Air Defence, Capability Building, Acquisition, Military Diplomacy, HR common, Common legal Act, Disaster Management, AI, Drones milking, Info sharing and Codification.

To operationalise and fight a war through a Joint Theater Command, the three Services will have to *start thinking together, plan together and train together*.

Today each Service thinks individually through their respective Think Tanks; ‘Centre for Land Warfare Studies’ (CLAWS) for the Boots on Ground, ‘Naval Foundation’ for the Sea Battle and ‘Centre for Air Power Studies’ (CAPS) for the Air Warfare. HQ IDS for jointness depends on its own think tank; ‘Centre for Joint

Warfare Studies' (CENJOWS) and the MoD is supposed to join the three Services at 'United Services Institute' (USI). It would be useful if four service specific think tanks give out their respective perspective and USI could join up the four and bring out a national level perspective.

The Hon'ble PM in his speech said. *"There should be good coordination and it should be relevant with the hope and aspirations of our people."* A relevant coordination is only possible if all the five think tanks work on a common threat and the outcome of the studies is collaborated and a common big picture is thrown out for the national leadership.

The next level of coordination at the planning phase will be the responsibility of the JOPP under the Theatre Commander. However, training for warfighting at the respective War colleges must amalgamate at one War College, a simple JOCAB might fall short and could be a shade lower than the *relevant coordination*, which the PM mentioned in his speech of 15th August 2019.

***"Smart Thinking, Smart Planning and Smart Training:
A Pre-requisite to a Joint Theatre Command"***

Endnotes

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About the VIVEKANANDA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

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Since its inception, VIF has pursued quality research and scholarship and made efforts to highlight issues in governance, and strengthen national security. This is being actualised through numerous activities like seminars, round tables, interactive dialogues, Vimarsh (public discourse), conferences and briefings. The publications of VIF form lasting deliverables of VIF's aspiration to impact on the prevailing discourse on issues concerning India's national interest.



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