

Military Reforms in Armed Forces & National Security

Abstract

This paper attempts to define national security and role of institutions in ensuring that and then determines India's national interests and existing threats and potential challenges to national security. It further highlights the difficulties that stand in the way of reforms at different levels. This paper also throws light on what needs to be done in order to achieve military effectiveness in India at the two respective levels.

It will also be indicating what all strategies India should adopt to sustain India's Security interests. The paper ends by highlighting some crucial impediments in the way of reforming.

Keywords:

Introduction

India as a nation and confronts tremendous threats and challenges in safeguarding its vital national interests. Prevailing uncertainty, global shift in balance of power and persisting external threats needs detailed consideration. In spite of impressive economic growth, the domestic threats and challenges limit the rise of India. The leadership of India needs to specify our ends through national vision, interests and objectives to the world and synergise means of application of instruments of our national power to achieve the desired ends. We need a National Security policy that takes care of present day security threats and potential challenges. Today military organization plays an important role in formulation and execution of the policy in national security.

Aim of the Study

The national interests of nation states are the defence of the homeland, economic well-being, the creation of a favorable world order or external environment and the promotion of national values. The most basic and abiding national interest is the survival of the state. In my view, India's first order national interests include: security of India's sovereign territory with its values intact (survival of the state); internal stability and security; elimination of terrorism and violent religious extremism; creation of a secure environment conducive for sustained economic development.

National Security : Concept

National security can be defined as the quality or state of being secure from danger or anxiety'. The British political scientist Barry Buzan defines security as 'the pursuit of freedom from threat and the ability of states and societies to maintain their independent identity and their functional integrity against forces of change which they see as hostile. Presently, the concept of national security includes all those aspects which are critical for a nation's survival, growth and well-being and for this a country needs to use all the tools of diplomacy, persuasion and coercion. Military effectiveness can be ensured by including essential elements of national security and strategy.

Military Effectiveness

A traditional instrument available to a sovereign state to provide security for its citizens are its armed forces. They serve to defend the nation's vital interests. These are traditionally summarized as defending the territorial integrity, national interest and national development of the nation and its way of life, provide muscle to the nation's diplomacy and safeguard its economic interests from hostile external environment. A military effectiveness is "the capacity to create military power from a state's basic resources in wealth, technology, population size and human capital".

Security Interest of India

In the perspective of the National security the national interest includes defence of the homeland, economic well-being, the creation of a favorable world order or external environment and the promotion of national values. In my view, India's first order national interests include:



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security of India's sovereign territory with its values intact (survival of the state); internal stability and security; elimination of terrorism and violent religious extremism; creation of a secure environment conducive for sustained economic development; access to all sources of energy; free flow of commerce, and; autonomy in decision-making.

Present threats in National Security of India

Pakistan

Pakistan Being the big neighbor of India. Pakistan is the source of immediate direct threat. Keeping in mind Pakistan's foreign policy it would be safe to presume that it is likely to persist with proxy war. This threat is multiplied with economic aid to Pakistan and Chinese support.

China

In present scenario threat from China exists in terms of possible border tensions, diplomatic spats and incremental growth of China's footprint in our immediate neighborhood. A clash of interest can also occur in the IOR as China increases its influence thus limiting India progression. Moreover, cyber and space based threats are more vital.

Internal Threats

Internal security is the greatest challenge facing India today. Festering insurgencies in the North East and J&K and Left Wing Extremism make India look like a state under siege. Networking of supported terrorism with domestic terror groups makes this threat even more potent.

Long Term Threats

Energy Security

Due to rising demand, competition for sourcing energy resources will be a challenge for most import dependent countries. Turbulence in the Middle East may further contribute to energy insecurity. Due to India's energy dependence on the region and the presence of about five million strong Indian diaspora in the region, any conflict there will be a social and economic challenge to India.

Cyber & space Security

India, with its limited space capability, will face a major challenge in protecting its space assets in case of a conflict. Similarly cyber security will be a greater challenge both for security and economy.

National Security Strategy

National Security Strategy is the outcome of a long-term vision. For a country of our size and stature, institutionalized strategic thinking mechanism within and outside government is inadequate. India seeks to achieve its national security interests through rapid economic growth to reduce social inequality and regional imbalances; develop adequate military power to deter external aggression or coercion and secure its energy and resources supply, and; create conditions for India's rise as an important player in international affairs consistent with its values of democracy, pluralism, secularism and rule of law. Let us now examine the shortcomings of its military institutions that have affected India's national security interests.

Needs of the Reforms

Let me describe the institutional reforms essential for achieving military effectiveness in India at two levels.

Civil Military Jointmanship

Sound security strategy requires that military considerations be integrated with non-military concerns involving economic policies and domestic policies. Civil-military conflict can interfere with the smooth functioning of senior policy-making institutions.

Integrated Higher Defence Management

There is no single agency to lay down defence policy and no coordination between various agencies such as Ministries of Home Affairs, External Affairs, Finance and Defence and intelligence services. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) need to be appointed to render single point military advice to the Cabinet and retired armed forces generals can be appointed as national security adviser to work in coordination with chief of defence staff. Committee on Security (CCS). Integration of the Ministry of Defence and services headquarters is also essential for formulation of sound defence policy. The Armed Forces must be an integral part of the 'decision-making' process on issues of national security that involve them.

Services Level Reforms

Management of Resources

India's developmental needs will be high in the foreseeable future and the defence allocation is unlikely to be raised much beyond present levels in terms of percentage of GDP. Better management of inventories, prevention of corruption in procurement and better project management can spare funds for modernization. Instead of highly expensive legacy systems, services need to focus on niche capabilities and systems which will be appropriate to meet potential threats.

Higher Defence Studies for Officer

India's military institutions are good at imparting professional skills but do not educate its future military leaders in military history, strategy, doctrines, or creating understanding of geopolitics, economy and much else that is required. Every officer needs to be capable of analyzing the trends and apply theory into practice realistically. Education, with its focus on intellectual development, is the need of the hour.

Potential Leadership

The future, considering its expected complexity, ambiguity and turbulence, will demand strategic leadership. The leadership development process must result in leaders who are competent, have the right education and experience through academic and professional education and then the service experience through appointments tenanted. Ability to articulate one's honest views must be encouraged.

The reforms, if carried out in a comprehensive and sustained manner, will make institutions accountable and responsive, create strategic options, and enhance India's military effectiveness. It will also engender a feeling of security

amongst the citizens by reducing their fear and anxiety.

Obstruction in the Way of Reforms

In independent India's history defence reforms at some scale were attempted only twice. The first attempt was led by the then Defence Minister, Mr Y B Chavan when rationalization of the military and civil structures in Ministry of Defence was carried out, logistic services were overhauled and shortages of weapons and equipment started to be made up through re-prioritizing the activities of domestic defence enterprises and opening up of foreign sources. The second attempt at reforms started when under the guidance of Gen Sundarji the mechanization of the Army took place, operational concepts and doctrines were revised and new weapon systems were inducted. Crisis can also force reforms like it did in the wake of 1962 War. Reforms need to be enforced with conviction. The prevailing system of authority without accountability is difficult to change without external direction and coercion since those who benefit from it are least likely to support the change.

Conclusion

In the present scenario India has very well organized and well formulated security systems with

military power. Jointly political and military leadership are play the big role in the formulation of the national policy to prevent our national security. Effective political leadership and strong military strength are well integrated our national army head quarter logistic system & communication system that is the big achievement of the military reforms in the way of national security

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