India’s Current Defence Preparedness

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Abstract:

Security means development and without development there is no security\(^1\). India’s strategic location between two neighbours China and Pakistan make the situation complex to think about its military strength in land, sea and airpower. We need to modernize our armed forces with latest technologies to tackle terrorist and naxal activities and external threats. This paper deals with India’s current defence preparedness with respect to China and Pakistan. It also consists of India’s current defence procurement policy 2018.

Key words:

Defence Preparedness, Army, Navy, Airforce, Missile, Weapons, China, Pakistan, Security, Threat, Neighbours, Conflict.

When India became free from the chain of British colonialism on 15\(^{th}\) August 1947, in spite of following the policy of non allign movement India suffered the problem of conflict from the side of both neighbours China and Pakistan. India’s strong strategic location, good geography, qualitative and quantitative population, easy availability of natural resources made super powers and its neighbours to understand it as a good competitor. Up to 1962 India took the situation for granted due to NAM policy and Pancsheel agreement with China. But 1962 war

between India and China opened her eyes and forced to changed it’s defence policy. That was the first time when India increased it’s defence budget. Now in the present time Finance Minister Mr. Arun Jaitley announced Rs 359,000 crore of 2017-2018 budget of India for development of armed forces which is a raise of around 7 percent from last year in which defence budget is Rs 2,79,305 crore. India ranks top 5 in defence budget surpassing France. Share of defence budget in G.D.P is 1.56 %. Among the Defence budget Indian Army, Navy and Air force share is 57 %, 14 % and 22 %. This shows that Indian Army gets the largest share because Army includes National Cadet Corps (NCC), Rashtriya Rifles, Ex-Servicemen Contribution Health Scheme (ECHS), Inspection Organisation and Military Farms.

Strategic location of India between South East Asia and West Asia encompasses a various range of security challenges. India needs good relationship with it’s neighborhood for the sake of it’s stability and volality in world. Unstable neighbourhood can make a country unstable too. India’s south asian friends and neighbours shows a mixed picture of stability, cooperation and security. India’s main concern is to build security cooperation with all it’s neighbours on an equal basis of trust, faith, respect and mutual understanding which will help India both strategically and economically. When we take a look on India’s geostrategic location in world then we find that india’s strong presence in Indian Ocean region make it more concerned to think about it’s naval doctrine. There is a famous line in world history i.e. “Who will rule over the sea will rule over the world”. India’s peninsular projection in Indian Ocean to Suez Canal and from Persian gulf to strait of Malacca and in indo-pacific region binds India for a better trade and commerce in these regions.

The two neighbours with whom India fought four major wars i.e. India Pakistan war 1948, India china war 1962, India Pakistan war 1971 and Kargil war of 1999 increases India’s concern towards it’s border and maritime security. China’s strong presence in Indian Ocean Region may be a great concern for India’s security. In this era of globalisation the whole world is interlinked but more dependency on other country can harm our own position in home area. The competition between states for position, power and economy is creating imbalance in world politics by disturbing international peace and security. Now, the threat of fighting a direct war has been replaced through proxy wars due to invention of nuclear weapons and interdependency which is more concerning. In proxy war one country will always try to destablize other through regional and global security issues which should be more challenging.
Easy availability of weapons, good transfer of technology, refugees problem, human made and natural crisis, intense competition for easy availability of natural resources make world’s situation more complex. Threats for India can be divided into two parts internal and external. Internal threats consist of naxalist problem, terrorists activities, riots, cyber security etc, on the other hand external security consist of border management, illegal transfer of goods and technologies, illegal migration, drug trafficking, human trafficking etc. The management of these two situations is really challenging for India. For this India needs better border management facilities, good naval doctrine, strong navy, army and air force, latest weapons and so on.

DEFENCE PRODUCTION:

The organizations which are responsible for development of latest technologies and weapons under the Department of Defence Production are as follows:

- Ordnance Factory Board (OFB),
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL),
- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL),
- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL),
- BEML Limited (BEML),
- Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI),
- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE),
- Goa Shipyards Limited (GSL),
- Hindustan Shipyards Limited (HSL),
- Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA),
- Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA),
- Directorate of Standardisation (DOS),
- Directorate of Planning & Coordination,
- Defence Exhibition Organisation (DEO) and
- National Institute for Research & Development in Defence Shipbuilding

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2 [https://www.ddpmnd.gov.in/about-department-defence-production](https://www.ddpmnd.gov.in/about-department-defence-production)
India’s weapon deals:

Now, India allowed 49% F.D.I in defence sector and following industry-friendly defence procurement policy. The Make in India policy of government is also a great initiative to make India self dependent. India changed it’s policy of Look East to Act East and with the help of this we will find a good platform to sell our weapons. India signed a deal with U.S.A on 22 September which was hanging since 2013 to buy 15 Chinook and 22 Apache choppers (dollar 3 billion deal). This will help in improving coast guard situation because they will finally get choppers which was raised after 26/11. Airbus and Mahindra signed deal to jointly manufacture military helicopters. Russia agreed for S-400 Triumph missile deal with India neglecting U.S.A pressure which is an air defence missile system. It will enhance India’s security because it can engage all kinds of aerial targets such as unmanned aerial vehicle, aircraft, ballistic and cruise missile within the range of 400 kms and upto the height of 30 kms. Defence equipments include missiles, ships, rockets, guns, simulators, tanks, helicopters aircrafts, choppers, warships and radars. India signed a deal to buy 36 Rafale from France to increase it’s airforce power. Project-75 Kalvari class submarine of navy is also a great achievement of present government which includes INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi and INS Karang.

Current Defence Preparedness:

- India has done its 6th successful test of Agni 5th missile from Abdul Kalam island of Orissa on 3rd June 2018.
- Successful test of Pinak rocket on 30 and 31 may 2018 from Chandipur Orissa which is now lashed with guided system and its range is 70 kms.
- On 22 March 2018 India successfully tested fastest supersonic cruise missle of world Brahmos. It is the first time when Brahmos is tested with Indigenous Seeker. After joining MTCR India increased range of Brahmos missile up to 400 kms. Now this missile can be launched from aircraft, surface and warship.
- India successfully tested interceptor missile which is a double-tired system includes two interceptor missiles one is PAD: Prithvi Air Defence missile and other is AAD: Advanced Air Defence.
• On 22 December 2017 DRDO successfully tested Quick Range Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) from Chandipur Orissa. Its range is 25-30 km and contains the capability of night vision device.
• DRDO successfully tested indigenous light glided bomb from testing range of Chandipur Orissa. This weapon is also known as (SAAW: Smart Anti Airfield Weapon), contains the capability of penetrating targets from long range.
• Government launched Defence Procurement Policy-2018 to make India self dependent in defence production.

Defence Procurement Policy 2018: Vision of this policy is to create active participation of private and public sector to provide India better rank in Space technology and defence industry. The key features of this policy are as follows:-

1. To make a movable, strong and competitive defence production.
2. To liberalize the licensing of defence production for easy availability of weapons and better transfer of technology.
3. To decrease dependency on current import and to be independent in the production of fighter planes, warships, guns and more weapon system up to 2025.
4. Policy aims to get Rs 35000 export in defence production up to 2025.
5. To liberalize Foreign Direct Investment for better defence production.
6. Establishment of two defence industry corridors in states to lessen the dependency on other countries at the time of war.
7. Development of a new policy named ‘innovation for defence excellence’ in which Defence Innovation Hubs will be established to provide important incubation and infrastructure in Start Up.
8. Intellectual Property Cell will be established for the development of intellectual property in defence sector.
Bilateral and multilateral exercises of India:

Milan exercise 2018 between India and 16 countries in Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar is a multilateral exercise for maintaining international peace and security. Theme of this exercise is ‘Friendship across the Sea’. On 19-29 October 2017 India and Russia jointly participated in military exercise Indri. This was the first time when all forces of India i.e. army, navy and air force participated in exercise Indra. Mitra Shakti exercise between India and Sri Lanka is also a joint exercise to enhance India’s security. The exercise Peace Mission under the framework of Sanghai Cooperation Organisation to enhance good relation between SCO members and specially between India, China and Pakistan is a great initiative to maintain peace in the region. India and United States of America participated in 13th edition of Yudh Abhyas in (JBLM: Joint Base Lewis McChord) in Washington for better relationship and coordination. There are many more bilateral and multilateral exercises of India with different counties. These exercises help a country to improve its relationship with other country on an equal basis of faith, trust and understanding.

India’s current armed potential with respect to China and Pakistan:

The Indian armed forces consist of the Army, Air Force and the Navy along with strategic and Para-military forces. In terms of numbers, the Indian armed forces are the second largest in the world with 1,325,000 active duty personnel and 1,155,000 reserve. For a meaningful discussion on India’s security we need comparative analysis of India, Pakistan and China’s capability. India shares a long border with both Pakistan and China. Past conflicts with both the countries enabled India’s military, air force and naval capability. India needs to improve its power so that it can fight double-front war if needed through improving its qualitative and quantitative number of armed forces and weapons.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDIA</th>
<th>CHINA</th>
<th>PAKISTAN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Army strength:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Army strength:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Army strength:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Active army: 1200,255</td>
<td>Total active Army: 2,300,000</td>
<td>Total active army: 6,20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Towed Artillery: 7,414</td>
<td>Towed Artillery: 6246</td>
<td>Towed Artillery: 3,278</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combat Tanks: 4426</td>
<td>Combat Tanks: 6457</td>
<td>Combat Tanks: 2,924</td>
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<td><strong>Airpower Strength:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Airpower Strength:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Airpower Strength:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total aircraft: 2102</td>
<td>Total aircraft: 2955</td>
<td>Total aircraft: 951</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fighter aircraft: 676</td>
<td>Fighter aircraft: 1271</td>
<td>Fighter aircraft: 300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attack aircraft: 809</td>
<td>Attack aircraft: 1385</td>
<td>Attack aircraft: 394</td>
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<td>Attack helicopters: 16</td>
<td>Attack helicopters: 206</td>
<td>Attack helicopters: 52</td>
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<td><strong>Naval power:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Naval power:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Naval power:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total naval assets: 295 vessels</td>
<td>Total naval assets: 714 vessels</td>
<td>Total naval assets: 197</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aircraft carriers: 3 (1 in service)</td>
<td>Aircraft carriers: 1</td>
<td>Aircraft carriers: 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Destroyers: 11</td>
<td>Destroyers: 35</td>
<td>Destroyers: 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corvettes: 23</td>
<td>Corvettes: 35</td>
<td>Corvettes: 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submarines: 15</td>
<td>Submarines: 68</td>
<td>Submarines: 8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nuclear capability:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nuclear capability:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nuclear capability:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total nuclear warheads: 130-140</td>
<td>Total nuclear warheads: 280</td>
<td>Total nuclear warheads: 130-140</td>
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<td><strong>Missile capability:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Missile capability:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Missile capability:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ICBM: Agni 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>ICBM: DF 31 and 41</td>
<td>ICBM: 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLBM: Sagarika K 15</td>
<td>SLBM: JL-1, JL-2</td>
<td>SLBM: 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cruise:Brahmos supersonic</td>
<td>Cruise DH-10 and KH-55SM</td>
<td>Cruise: Babar, Hatf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other: Prithvi, akash, Barak-8</td>
<td>Other: DF-21, DF-11.</td>
<td>Other: Gazanavi, ghauri, shaheen.</td>
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Indo-Pacific Scenario:

Indian leadership has accepted that for India to rise, it is important to increase its maritime power depending on its size and economy. The centre of gravity and economy in the world exists in the Indo-Pacific region. India’s Navy is continuously increasing its maritime power by increasing its nuclear submarines and missiles. India is collaborating with friendly nations to provide stability and peace in Indian Ocean Region and provide Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. India is expanding its interest in Indo-Pacific region as expressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Sangri-La dialogue, 2018 at Singapore with the statement, “We are advancing a comprehensive agenda of regional cooperation through Indian Ocean Rim Association”. PM Modi has expressed his maritime vision through SAGAR project known as security and growth for all in the region. India’s ambitious neighbour China is equally dependant on Indian Ocean for traffic of its resources. With respect to the security scenario Indian Navy has expanded its quality than quantity. The navy has set up a target to have 200 ships and 400 aircrafts by 2027 in its Maritime Capability Plan

Conclusion:

India’s past policy was related to soft power, now India follows a policy of mixture of hard and soft power policy. Best example of this is Surgical strike and active involvement through diplomacy like infrastructure development in Afghanistan and Bangladesh. If our sovereignty will be challenged in future then we will take hard decisions to retaliate our enemy. India has also changed its policy from Look East to Act East through actively participating in Indo-Pacific region, best example is joint training exercise in jungle warfare with Vietnam. We should be always prepare for fighting two front war with our two strong enemies China and Pakistan. In this sense, we have done Rafale deal and Scorpene class submarine with France, Awacs with Israyl, S-400 Triumph with Russia. Now we have also changed our nuclear policy of no first use in case of chemical and biological attack. India’s current defence budget is around 1.6 % which should be increase at a minimum rate of up to 2 % because our two neighbours china and Pakistan spends around 5 % of their G.D.P on defence budget. Modern warfare is multidimensional, and for a peninsular country like India it is essential to be prepared for a multidimensional warfare with both its neighbours by increasing its land, water and airpower capability. India is already doing good in its defence sector but we need to improve more so that no one can beat us in this field.
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