

CENTRE FOR JOINT WARFARE STUDIES



INDIA : A GLOBAL MILITARY TRAINING HUB

SYNODOS PAPER

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1. The onset of 21st century witnessed financial turmoil across the globe with large number of economies, including developed nations slipping into recession, most still struggling to stabilize. However, in contrast, India not only weathered the financial storm successfully but emerged stronger, as **one of the fastest growing economies of the world**, thus announcing its arrival in the centre stage of world power play. With global geo-polico-eco centre of gravity shifting towards Asia, has further brought the spot light on India. Displaying robust, sustained and resilient economic growth in troubled times, the world has accepted and welcomed emergence of India as a regional cum global power. In the emerging new world order, amity of nations look up to India as a true balancing power in the diverse power play in geo-polico-eco-security spectrum. As India unleashes its latent economic power, the world economies are waiting to join the band wagon to reap benefits from India's growth story. **'Make in India'**, a master stroke strategy, would transform India

into a global manufacturing hub in the decade ahead.

2. Whilst the nation embarks on a challenging journey to be a global power, defence diplomacy, a vital instrument of state craft could complement the overall effort through display of military prowess and soft power capability, thus promoting and augmenting the foreign policy of the nation. As India consolidates and strengthens its economic might, concurrently, we could emerge as a Global Military Training Hub.

3. Military training is a dynamic tool for defence cooperation, in fact, it is by far the most effective tool for carrying out military to military cooperation with Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs). Apart from capacity building of FFCs, it showcases our military prowess as well as projects the image of the country as a rapidly emerging regional cum global power. Military trainings of defence forces of nations across the globe would construe as an effective tool to project our immense latent soft power capability.

4. India has a very comprehensive and elaborate military training infrastructure and institutions, which empowers us to be a global leader in military education. The inherent resilient capability of our armed forces could be effectively harnessed to improve bilateral relations with FFCs and promote our foreign policy. At present, approx 5000 personnel from around 60 to 70 countries are trained in various training institutions across the country, the demand from other countries are spiraling and not being fulfilled. The numbers being trained could be enhanced significantly without compromising training of our armed forces by adopting a pragmatic policy, proper planning and focused approach. In addition to empowering FFCs and promoting goodwill, military education could be a source of major revenue generation, as well.

5. **Advantage India**. Apart from the comprehensive military training infrastructure, India is endowed with several intangibles which afford tremendous advantage vis-à-vis other countries, which merit a mention. Probably, India may be the only country which is endowed with almost all types of terrain viz planes, jungles, deserts, riverine, mountains and glaciated terrain. Indian culture with pluralistic society affords great cultural affinity to FFCs, thus a very large number of countries are keen to seek training in India. Above all, the benign foreign policy adopted by our country respecting sovereignty of every nation, draws amity of nations to seek closer ties and relations with India. These advantages put together, afford enviable opportunity to India to be a global leader in military education.

6. In the emerging world order today, geo-political contours amongst nation states are shaped by economic and security considerations. The rapid rise of Islamic fundamentalism across the globe, characterized by barbaric terrorism has added the most challenging dimension to the global security,

in the 21st century. Thus, the art of warfare has witnessed a paradigm shift towards LIC, counter terrorism, cyber warfare etc. In such a scenario, the era of conventional wars may be a thing of past. Whilst, our armed forces are well equipped for training for conventional war, there is a need to create Centres of Excellence for training on unconventional threats as well as specialized niche fields. Creation of such training facilities would not only benefit our armed forces but also extend training facilities to FFCs. To emerge as a global military training hub, it is imperative for our armed forces to focus on training aspects discussed in the succeeding paras.

India a Global Military Training Hub : Focus Areas

7. **Counter Terrorism**. Terrorism has emerged as the biggest challenge to the global security in the 21st century. This threat is omnipresent, transcends land & sea barriers and changes its form from situation to situation. No nation is insulated from this threat today. Thriving on acts of wanton killings & barbarism, this threat is rapidly engulfing many nations, it is here to stay for decades ahead, particularly when some nations are employing terror as a **state instrument of power**. A few nation states viz Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan and Libya have been swept by the scourge of terrorism and are fighting for their existence. India has been fighting state sponsored terror for over four decades now with reasonable degree of success. Thus, India has obtained valuable experience and expertise in countering this threat. Whilst, the world is struggling to contain this threat, India could play a very vital role in GWOT, not by physical interventions but by educating the world by extending training to armed forces of FFCs. Salient suggestions which could be considered are as follows:-

- (a) Army, the major player, should consolidate training facilities on counter terrorism and extend training facilities

to CAPFs as well as police forces of the states affected by LWE. It could consider opening additional regional training facilities on requirement basis to impart standardised effective training to all stake holders involved in counter terrorism.

(b) India could conduct specialised courses on counter terrorism for FFCs with the concept of **Training the Trainers**.

(c) India could also offer experts in the field for training of armed forces of FFCs for short duration courses on deputation.

8. **Cyber Warfare**. Cyber Security is yet another major challenge thrown up in the 21st century, with the threat looming large 24 by 7, which can cripple the most crucial networks of the armed forces as well as national networks like banking, railways, financial markets etc. The threat is independent of war or peace, as it can virtually paralyze the entire nation, at any time. India is a world leader in IT, as a corollary, the cyber domain too should be our forte. However, our armed forces are not adequately trained to handle this virtual threat. Salient suggestions which could be considered are as follows:-

(a) It is imperative for armed forces to evolve comprehensive training facilities for effective training on cyber security.

(b) Whilst, the expertise is available in the country, the armed forces need to consolidate their facilities and coopt the expertise available in the various civil education institutions to impart effective training to the personnel.

(c) The basic training could be planned and organized by MCTE, the Advanced training as well as suitably structured courses on cyber security

could be conducted by Defence Institute of Armament Technology (DIAT), Pune, for the armed forces.

(d) The training facilities on Cyber Security, both in military & civil institutions, albeit on payment could be offered to armed forces of FFCs.

9. **CBRN Training**. The threat of employment of CBRN Weapons by our adversaries and terrorist organisations is very real. The terrorist originations are reported to be employing chemical weapons in Iraq and Syria, are working diligently to acquire nuclear weapons from countries like Pakistan, which cannot be ruled out in near future. It is imperative to develop and upgrade our existing training infrastructure. Training on CBRN is a highly specialised field, international conventions prohibit proliferation of such facilities being hazardous in nature, thus need to develop one training facility as a Centre of Excellence at the national level. Such training facilities are available only with select countries like Russia & certain European countries, which impart training at exorbitant cost. The following suggestions are offered to improve CBRN training in the country :-

(a) Upgrade & develop CBRN training facility at CME, Pune as a centre of Excellence at the national level for imparting effective training to the armed forces & CPMF.

(b) DRDO needs to be coopted in developing the facility as well as provide requisite staffing for its running.

(c) Amend the existing laws on the subject through legislation, if required.

(d) Introduce Comprehensive training on CBRN for the armed forces.

(e) Subsequently, extend training facility to FFCs, albeit on payment basis.

10. **Special Forces Training.** The armed forces have Special Forces Units, a strategic asset, in the three Services. The CAPF & State Police too have similar force in the form of Commando Units. In the prevailing security environment within the country and state sponsored terror perpetrated by our adversaries, the special forces assume great significance in the overall security calculus, could play a strategic / decisive role during operations as well as in crisis situations confronted during peace. These forces put together, would construe a sizeable quantum of national asset. They are presently trained by the respective service / organization, there is a strong case to create a common basic training facility at the national level. Such an arrangement would ensure standardization of training, foster better integration amongst forces of different agencies and result in economy of effort. The following suggestions are offered : -

(a) Create a common basic training facility, as a nodal agency at national level for special forces of various organizations. Indian Army is the best suited, which could upgrade its existing facility, as a nodal training facility.

(b) Specialized training of these forces specific to a service / organization could be undertaken by the respective service/ organization, post the common basic training.

(c) It is imperative to raise a Special Forces Command to optimise the employment of such an invaluable strategic asset.

(d) Once a common basic training facility is created, the training facility could be extended to FFCs.

11. **Para Training.** The IAF has a well established Para Training School at Agra. The institution is training personnel from the three

services as well as personnel from certain FFCs. The institution needs to be developed into a Centre of Excellence, with an international orientation. The institution should be well equipped to impart military training as well as promote adventure sport. The school could be upgraded and training facility extended to FFCs, albeit on payment basis.

12. **Training for UN Peace Keeping.** India has actively participated in almost all the UN peace keeping operations since independence. It is one of the largest troop contributing nation for UN missions. Thus, India has acquired vast experience and expertise in the field, which could be harnessed to create a **global training hub for UN peace keeping operations**. We could create a training facility of international standard as a Centre of Excellence, possibly part / wholly funded by UN, if possible, to impart training to FFCs on this important aspect. The issue for funding by UN could be raised at appropriate level with the MEA. This could also help generate large amount of revenue for the country.

13. **Disaster Management.** The world today is witnessing natural disasters at an alarming frequency, which are likely to increase further, as the trends suggest. Indian Armed forces have displayed tremendous resilience in disaster relief within the country as well as in the countries in the sub continent. India could share its expertise and experience and emerge as a world leader in Disaster Management. A Seminar on Disaster Management could be organized by a nominated Services Think Tank in coordination with the three Services and NDMA, once a year for representatives from South Asia and ASEAN countries.

Review of Military Training : Dynamic Tool For Defence Cooperation

14. **Training Methodology.** The current training methodology of imparting training

to FFCs by allotting one or two vacancies in select courses does not construe meaningful defence cooperation, merits review. This is particularly true in case of countries fighting terror, relying heavily on us and where India is keen to make a significant contribution. The following suggestions are offered :-

- (a) There is a need to change the methodology and conduct separate courses, preferably in the format of training the trainers.
- (b) Conduct separate specialised courses, as on requirement basis.
- (c) Offer enhanced number of vacancies in the premier institutions.
- (d) Offer faculty for conduct of specialised training in the host FFC.

15. Policy on Defence Cooperation.

To enhance the scale & scope of defence cooperation with FFCs, it is imperative to formulate a comprehensive policy, which could define the broad contours of military to military cooperation and act as a guide for planning and execution by the Services. The policy could be formulated by HQ IDS in consultation with the three Services.

16. Reciprocal Training Agreements. The enhanced allocation of vacancies to FFCs in premier courses reduces the vacancies for own officers. However, it could be off-set by forging reciprocal training agreements with FFCs and thus obtain reciprocal vacancies in premier courses in these FFCs. Such agreements would afford exposure to own officers and overcome financial constraints, which normally prohibits own officers doing these courses in FFCs.

National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla

17. Education Qualification. In an equipment intensive, technology driven era, it would be pragmatic to enhance the education

qualification of cadets from bachelors degree to BE/ B Tech by restructuring the syllabi and including one year training period in the finishing academies in the education curriculum. Almost 95 percent intake into NDA is from science background students, which would facilitate such an option. The model adopted by the Indian Navy could be replicated in NDA as well. This would significantly enhance the technical threshold of officers, which is the need of the day. This will also help in reducing the number of different types of entries into the services, as well.

18. Allotment of Vacancies to FFCs.

Presently, 15 to 16 vacancies per course are allotted to cadets from 5 to 8 FFCs, against the demand of around 40 vacancies from 15 to 20 FFCs. With the recently enhanced capacity of 400 cadets per course, 10 to 12 percent vacancies can be easily allotted to FFCs. Thus, the vacancies allotted to FFCs could be enhanced to 40 per course in a graduated manner. This would allow representation of cadets from 15 to 20 countries, which would afford an international orientation to the institution. The enhanced vacancies could be allotted to countries like Afghanistan, Tajikistan, etc.

19. Cadets Exchange Visits. Cadets exchange visits both incoming and outgoing must be organized to similar institutions of FFCs for a small group of cadets, on yearly basis as part of defence cooperation.

20. Faculty Visit to FFC Institutions.

Faculty visits should be organised to FFCs training institutions once in two years to absorb best practices, as well as promote defence cooperation.

Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington

21. Allotment of Vacancies to FFCs.

At present 32 vacancies per course, i.e. 7% of course capacity, are allotted to approx 25

FFCs. With the recent enhancement of course strength to 500, the number of vacancies to FFCs could be enhanced to 50, ie 10% of course capacity, thus giving representation to around 40 FFCs. This would afford an international orientation to the institution. The increase in vacancies to FFCs could be offset by obtaining at least 10 to 12 reciprocal vacancies in FFCs for own officers, thus the increase would be very marginal. Such an arrangement would afford exposure to large number of own officers in FFCs.

22. Faculty Orientation Programme.

DSSC is an institution of world repute. It could run a Faculty Orientation Program for faculty members from FFCs, particularly South Asia and ASEAN countries. The program could be run akin to the program run by UK.

23. International Seminar on Security Related Issues.

DSSC has a highly experienced and diverse faculty, running one course per year. DSSC could organise an international seminar on security related issues, once in two years inviting representation from FFCs, including alumni of the institution.

24. Assistance to FFCs. Faculty members from DSSC could be sent to training institutions of FFCs, on request to review syllabus and conduct of specific aspects of the course. The faculty could also run short capsules on specialized aspects, as well. DSSC could nominate faculty from the environment, if required, to obviate hindrance in running the course.

College of Defence Management : HDMC

25. Allotment of Vacancies to FFCs.

HDMC is a unique course run by CDM, Secunderabad, a reputed premier institution of the country. In the recent past, the course capacity has been enhanced from 75 to 150. However, the vacancies allotted to FFCs has remained at six, which are offered to 4 to 5 FFCs. It is recommended that the vacancies for FFCs should be enhanced to 18 ie 12% of

course capacity, thus drawing representation from 15 to 18 countries. The excess allotment could be easily offset by obtaining around 8 to 10 reciprocal vacancies in Higher Command Courses in FFCs, thus the increase would be notional. This would not only give an international orientation to the course but also afford opportunity to own officers to do courses in FFCs. Moreover, with steep increase in the course vacancies, all the officers undergoing the course are unlikely to make to the next rank, thus part of the enhanced course strength could be effectively utilized to promote defence cooperation.

26. MDP: Security / Management Related Subjects.

CDM could organise one to two MDPs per year on security / management related subjects for FFCs, particularly for South Asia and ASEAN countries.

Technical College: CME/MCTE/MCEME

27. With introduction of TES entry, the requirement of officers from Engrs, EME and Sigs to do degree courses has considerably reduced. Therefore, BE / B Tech seats in CME, MCTE & MCEME are relatively under subscribed. It may be prudent to offer technical training courses to FFCs, to optimize the course capacity, albeit on payment basis.

Technical Staff Officers Course (TSOC), Pune

28. Each service is running TSOC separately in MILIT, Pune with course strength of 90 for Army and 20 each by Navy and Air Force. These courses are not being offered to FFCs. The following suggestions are offered :-

- (a) Course strength of TSOC Army should be enhanced to 250 in a graduated manner and 12% vacancies could be allotted to FFCs. This would afford a larger number of technically qualified staff officers to the environment as well as offer training facilities to FFCs.

(b) Course strength of TSOC for IAF & IN should be enhanced to 40 each with 6 to 8 vacancies being allotted to FFCs. Running of a course with a strength of 20 amounts to under utilisation of the faculty and the resources.

Training Institutions of Three Services

29. Each Service has a plethora of specialized training institutions to impart training to personnel in the diverse fields. These institutions have capacities to train additional personnel from FFCs or training capacity could be augmented as on requirement basis. With the renewed focus on expanding military to military cooperation with FFCs, each service could carry out a **comprehensive study to identify the areas for training to be offered to FFCs**, capacities available and need to augment the infrastructure in a time bound manner.

Indian Navy

30. Indian Naval Academy. Presently, approx 5 to 6 vacancies are allotted to FFCs which could be enhanced to 25-30 vacancies, without adversely impacting own requirement.

31. Coastal Security. India has indigenously developed advanced coastal security infrastructure to control and monitor the colossal sea traffic along our coasts. Similar coastal infrastructure could be provided to IOR littoral states as part of defence cooperation.

32. Courses of Instruction in Training Institutions. Indian Navy has plethora of world class training institutions and infrastructure, with adequate capacities. A holistic review could be carried out to enhance the vacancies allotted to FFCs, particularly South Asian and ASEAN countries.

Indian Air Force

33. Pilot Training. The current state of trainer aircraft and training infrastructure

prohibit extending training to FFCs, albeit done in small numbers. The proposed induction of new aircraft and expansion of training infrastructure in the near future would afford adequate training capacities which could be offered to FFCs without comprising training to own personnel. It would be pragmatic to keep in mind the additional training capacities required to be created for supporting the FFCs as part of defence cooperation, while planning expansion of infrastructure. India could emerge as a training hub for training of combat pilots in the sub continent, in the near future.

34. Technical Training. The Indian Air Force has plethora of very well established technical training institutions and infrastructure, with adequate capacities which are sub optimally utilized. The training facilities are offered to FFCs but at a limited scale. It is recommended that a holistic review be carried out and the scale & scope of training to FFCs be enhanced as part of defence cooperation. This would also ensure optimal utilization of resources and generation of revenue as well, if planned and executed pragmatically.

Outsourcing of Training Infrastructure

35. Over the years, the Indian Armed Forces have developed very comprehensive and elaborate state of the art training facilities across the country at a huge cost. Most of the FFCs are unlikely to have such facilities for training of their armed forces. The training facilities could be out sourced to various FFCs for training their Armed Forces, albeit on payment basis. This would not only generate revenue but also afford an opportunity to our Armed Forces to operate with FFCs, foster coordination & cooperation, help absorb best practices. For example Singapore has been conducting their combat pilot training in India. Each service could identify training infrastructure which could be out sourced to FFCs. Some of the training facilities which could be considered for out sourcing to FFCs

are as follows :-

- (a) Select air bases with ground infrastructure.
- (b) Firing ranges of all the three services.
- (c) Water obstacle crossing facilities.
- (d) CBRN training.
- (e) CI training facilities.
- (f) Simulator training of advanced equipment.
- (g) Training Areas and Maneuver Ranges.
- (h) EW Ranges.
- (j) Para training facilities.
- (k) Facilities for conduct of equipment field trials.

Training on English Language

36. Training on English language is frequently requested by many FFCs. This entails the trainers to be conversant in the foreign language of the affected FFC. We can make significant contribution in this field. Keeping in view the vast requirement, it may not be possible to spare English trained personnel from the Services. There is a need

to take a comprehensive look at the issue by obtaining the requirement from FFCs through our Embassies / High Commissions. The embassies could open English Training Centres by employing trained English teachers on deputation in concert with Min of HRD. Based on the requirement, the trained shortlisted teachers could undergo training on the required foreign language. Since, this would be a regular feature; the requirement of specific foreign language trained teachers could be advertised to facilitate selection. This would not only facilitate cooperation with the FFCs but also generate employment opportunities.

Conclusion

37. Defence cooperation is an important tool of statecraft which can be leveraged to forge strong bilateral ties with FFCs, further our national foreign policy. Over the years Indian Armed Forces have created comprehensive and invaluable state of the art training infrastructure, with adequate training capacities, which can be offered to friendly countries, without adversely impacting the training of our Armed Forces. Defence cooperation, if planned and executed pragmatically would offer rich dividends to the country as a whole.

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