

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE ROLE OF CDS AND INTERNATIONAL POSSIBILITIES

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This Project is currently under consideration to be published as a book.

The establishment of the post of CDS and the subsequent appointment of General Bipin Rawat as the first Chief of Defence Staff is a game changer for the Indian Defence structure. After the vehement victory in the year 2019, the Modi Government was determined to pursue the long pending reform for the institution of the post of CDS, which was advocated by the Kargil Review Committee in the year 2001. The CDS will be regarded as the *'first among equals'*, counselling and canvassing the perspective of the three services. However, the CDS will be the Chief military adviser to the Defence Minister. The idea of establishing the post of CDS was propounded decades ago, but it was stalled by bureaucracy and self-seeking aims of the stakeholders. The CDS's distinct coherent and comprehensible task of stimulating jointness, offers remarkable opportunities to make reforms in the defence structure in order to strike a balance between manpower and modernization expenses.

The advantages of a CDS are multitudinous and innumerable. With the constantly changing security dynamic of the world, India's military needs to be efficient in combat and in averting adversaries, which is achievable only if the military is integrated. Inter-service contention for weapons acquisition, budgets, employment of hardware and tactics, and assertion of relative credit for battlefield accomplishments impacted India and several nations, both during the conflict and in peace. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi articulated, that in the contemporary changing world scenario and with the hybridization of conflicts, India cannot risk to deliberate in fragmented ways. It will require a long time to rationalize the anachronistic arrangement of the higher defence administration in India. In the meantime, caught in the intricacies of the geopolitical setback, India's desire of stimulating cost-effective security is escalating consistently. Now that the establishment of the post of CDS and the appointment of General Bipin Rawat as the first CDS of India is a reality, Prime Minister Modi should trudge ahead and seek joint theatre commands. The independent sections of the Indian military do not possess their own definite identification.

Nevertheless, the CDS is now a reality for the Indian defence structure and the government has done well to institute the position of CDS, which was a long standing decision. It will have an extreme effect on the organizational framework within the Armed forces. Although, for the appointment of CDS to be transformational as articulated by the Prime Minister, comprehensive defence reforms are required to be addressed.

With the appointment of General Bipin Rawat as the first Chief of Defence Staff, India there is obvious commotion as to what the CDS will do to better the defence of India. The post of CDS has not been completely moulded and the actions of the appointed CDS will further shape its roles, responsibilities and the mandate. This document seeks to discuss the current aspects of the newly established post of CDS, its shortcomings and implications on the Department of Defence in order to propose ways to better and secure the post of CDS for its optimization. There is no doubt about the necessity of this post; however, there are various questions unanswered and various changes that were unexpected. The present regarding this post is uncertain and this paper seeks to give a more secure picture of the future of the CDS by assessing its weaknesses and strengths with regard to the combination of rapidly changing threats that are faced by India. It is often said that such a joint and synergized command is more of a catalyst for countries that wish to perform international operations in other nations, however, an additional synergized approach and the centralization that this post brings with it makes it a major catalyst in a time where India's biggest threats are from its neighbours.

After discussing the future prospects and recommendations for the CDS of India the paper also looks at its equivalent posts in the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Spain. The paper delves deep into the everyday functioning of the Chief of the Defence Staff of their respective countries, their powers, and their duties to the nation. Special emphasis is also given to their powers outside the borders, especially those part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the United States who plays a global role. The paper also briefly mentions the deficiencies in their own armed forces, and how the CDS of these respected countries plans to efficiently utilize them. The paper further elaborates on the various commands and subcommands that they control, and how they coordinate at times of war and at times of peace. It also specifically talks about their relationship with the government, how they are appointed, their tenures, cases where the CDS has come under scrutiny for the misuse of powers, how they are responsible to the government, their special powers at times of emergency and many more. Moreover, the paper also focuses on the powers approved by the Constitution of the respective country as well. The paper also looks into how these countries are making changes to their armed forces following the pandemic. The mandate, roles and responsibilities of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the US and the Chief of the Defence Staff of UK are observed and compared with that of the CDS of India. This proceeds to provide us with a picture of how this post works in countries where such decentralization had occurred long back. While the foreign models of joint commands may not be appropriate for India, there are certain factors which India can learn from other countries to function efficiently, especially in the arena of the centralisation of powers. It is important to look at how the post evolved and changed the Defence Planning and Security Strategy of the US and the UK. We also provide our certain recommendations on how the Chief of Defence Staff of India can function better as we have observed from other countries.