

AIR POWER IN NO WAR- NO PEACE SCENARIO

BIPIN RAWAT

Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, Admiral Karambir Singh Chief of the Naval Staff, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria Chief of the Air Staff, Dr. Reddy Secretary R&D and Chairman DRDO, former Chiefs, officers from the three services, ladies and gentlemen and the representatives from the media.

I am indeed privileged to address this gathering on the first anniversary of the air strikes by the IAF at Balakot. Geopolitics around the globe is changing and recent skirmishes highlight the regional significance of this aspect. Therefore, it is important to understand the nature and character of warfare. While the nature of warfare remains unchanged (and that wars will always be bloody), the character of warfare is constantly changing. It is in this context that the Centre for Air Power Studies has very aptly selected the subject on the employment of air power during sub-conventional operations in a no war no peace scenario.

It is important that the Defence services maintain credible deterrence at land, sea and air at all times to execute the role and tasks assigned based on the Defence Minister's operational directive. The capability of the three services must be synchronised towards building a formidable force. Credible

Speech delivered by Chief of Defence Staff, General **Bipin Rawat**, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, ADC at CAPS Seminar on "Air Power in No War-No Peace Scenario" on February 28, 2020 at Kothari Auditorium, DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi.

deterrence is a result of training and constant motivation for every soldier, sailor and airman. Credible deterrence is further confirmed by ensuring the availability of right platforms, equipment, weapons and ammunition for the services to deliver the intended message to the adversary at all times.

We also need to ensure that we keep pace with changing technology, inducting modern weapon systems while upgrading the existing ones.

Credible deterrence, more importantly, comes from the will of the military leadership to deliver when called upon and the intent of political leadership to take the right decision at the right time. This has been amply displayed post Kargil, Uri and now Pulwama, when the OODA cycle (Observe, Orient, decide and act) was completed and the forces were tasked to act. It was the first time in the sub-conventional domain that Air Power was unleashed on the adversary. The message went right and clear that the proxy war perpetrated on our people will not be tolerated.

We are finding a shift in the nature of warfare and the character in which it will be executed. Amidst a dynamic scenario, we need to be prepared for a war with characteristics of 'Surprise' and 'Unpredictability' and we must ensure that the adversary remains in fear of the same. We must remain unpredictable, maintain surprise and always look at newer ways of doing things.

The message of Balakot has clearly displayed our intent to act. I use this opportunity to re-emphasise the criticality of maintaining the highest operational readiness for our forces, equipment and manpower and the need to adapt and keep pace with modern technology and times. Our operational preparedness is significant to counter and thwart attempts by the adversary to use terrorism as a weapon against our Nation.

I wish the Centre of Air Power Studies the very best for this very contemporary seminar. I am confident that the Indian Air Force will remain ever prepared to execute future operations with greater intensity. We must ensure that the OODA loop is always completed to our advantage. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen and Jai Hind.