

# INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE AND MILITARY COOPERATION

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*...external security depends on national power which requires a continuous enhancement of the country's capacity to use its tangible and intangible resources in such a manner as to affect the behaviour of other nations..... a vibrant economy and a leading role in international affairs may be as important as a strong military for the preservation and development of national power.*

—Planning Commission's *India Vision 2020*<sup>1</sup>

Increased globalisation necessitates greater international interaction and, thus, national security assumes greater importance in order to ensure a secure environment for economic development and consequent high standard of living of the citizens. Challenges to national security and measures to meet the challenges cover a wide spectrum ranging from political to economic to territorial to intellectual property rights to direct military issues. The capacity of a nation to preserve and build lasting peace for all citizens will depend on the capability of its military to defend itself in the face of an external threat and the nation's ability to use defence as a foreign policy tool to neutralise threats while enhancing own defence capability. As globalisation demands greater interaction between nations through their governments at the political and institutional levels and the people, international defence and military engagement becomes

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1. The Planning Commission, *India Vision 2020, The Report of the Committee on India Vision 2020* (New Delhi: Academic Foundation: 2004) p. 44.

one of the institutional means of international engagement.

**Defence diplomacy** would cover all those defence related actions to further one's national aims and objectives. These actions could be unilateral, bilateral and multilateral; within or outside one's national territory, with or even without the consent of the other parties concerned. The benefit would primarily accrue to the initiator and any benefit to the other party or parties would be incidental. If unilateral armed action is at one extreme of the range of defence diplomacy, then bilateral and multilateral defence cooperation would be the other extreme. **Cooperation in a particular field (security or defence or military)**, on the other hand, would mean working jointly towards the same end, to assist someone or to comply with their request. Thus, there is the element of mutual consent and mutuality or commonality of purpose. In the *realpolitik* sense, one could argue that in the field of international relations, self-interest takes priority always and every time. However, countries that find commonality and mutuality of purpose could undertake cooperative activities. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is an example of how defence cooperation served to create a safe, secure and stable environment in Europe (North Atlantic), leading to economic development and improvement in the human development indices.

**Security cooperation** would cover all security related cooperation and include bilateral and multilateral security initiatives undertaken by civilian defence, military and civilian security agencies that impact on security. It would include politico-military cooperation, civil security cooperation and defence cooperation, wherein the defence set-up comprising the Defence Ministry and all or some of its components, of two or more countries, would engage and cooperate. **International defence cooperation** would be those actions taken by the Defence Ministry and agencies of two or more countries, including the militaries/armed forces, within the overarching umbrella of security cooperation and defence diplomacy. Actions at appropriate levels and agencies would lead to further sub-divisions. These sub-divisions would be 'strategic defence security cooperation' wherein strategic dialogues, treaties, alliances and agreements are determined. **Defence industry and technology cooperation** would cover cooperation in areas of defence production, research and development; defence imports and exports – lethal and non-lethal.

Finally, **military to military cooperation** would cover cooperation involving the uniformed Services, which share a unique bond due to the universality of military brotherhood. It would be essentially focussed to develop human or soft potential relating to the man behind the weapon. **Military to military cooperation** would be based on a wide range of exchanges on military aspects such as tactical, strategic and doctrinal spheres, weapon systems, etc. While use of the term "defence cooperation" would imply participation of all or any of the agencies, including the military, of the defence establishment, the term "military cooperation" would be narrower still, covering cooperation by the uniformed militaries only.

International defence cooperation would be a part of the larger canvas of international relations and national diplomacy. Countries differ in their working definitions of the subject.

- The **Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD)** defines *defence diplomacy* as those actions undertaken through the exchange of high-level defence related visits and dialogue on security challenges and port calls, and *defence cooperation* as those activities covered by training exchanges, combined exercises, sourcing, development, production and marketing of defence equipment and other forms of cooperation<sup>2</sup>.
- For the **US government**, *international defence cooperation* covers military alliances and agreements and caters for joint operations, interoperability, access and influence; while *security assistance* refers to various (international) security assistance programmes.<sup>3</sup>
- The **British government** classifies defence diplomacy as those efforts that seek to increase stability and security, through changing attitudes and perceptions through "disarmament of the mind." Its defence diplomacy mission covers a broad range of activities, which include training courses and education programmes, provision of loan Service personnel, short-term training teams, both civilian (defence) and military advisors, visits by ships, aircraft and other military units, visits by ministers and by military and civilian personnel at all levels, staff talks, conferences and seminars to

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2. Ministry of Defence, Annual Report 2003-04, New Delhi, p. 184, [www.mod.nic.in](http://www.mod.nic.in)

3. *The Management of Security Assistance (DISAM Green Book)*, 24th Edition, US Defence Institute of Security Assistance Management (Ohio: Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, January 2004), also at [www.disam.dsca.mil](http://www.disam.dsca.mil)

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improve mutual understanding, exchanges of civilian (defence) and military personnel and exercises. The UK treats *multinational defence cooperation* (MDC) as an arrangement where two or more nations work together to enhance military capability. This can include exchanges and liaison, training and exercising, common doctrine, collaborative equipment procurement, or multinational

formations with nations either cooperating on a roughly equal basis, or with one or more taking the lead and providing the framework within which others make smaller contributions.<sup>4</sup>

- **Australia** uses the term *defence international engagement* for all those activities that the Australian defence forces and Department of Defence officials undertake with foreign defence and security organisations. It classifies *defence cooperation* as a sub-set of international engagement and as those actions of the target country that are funded by the Australian Department of Defence through a separate Defence Cooperation Allocation<sup>5</sup>.
- **Russia** defines *military cooperation* as military relations of friendly states directed to the joint solution of defence problems which is determined by the compatibility of the respective state interests, coherence of a political course, mutual interest in providing international and national security. The Russians have further sub-divided *military cooperation* into "military-political, military-strategic and military-technical."<sup>6</sup>

**BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DEFENCE COOPERATION**

The role of the armed forces is traditionally defined by the functional imperative of use of threat of force for the purposes of defence, deterrence or compliance with the threat, or actual use of aggression or intervention. Defence and military

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4. Ministry of Defence, *Defence Diplomacy*, Paper 1 (London: UK Ministry of Defence, 2000, <www.mod.uk>), p. 2.

5. Department of Defence, Strategic and International Policy Division, *Defence International Engagement Manual* (Canberra: Australian Department of Defence, 2002), p 1.

6. Interaction with Russian defence attaché staff in New Delhi.

cooperation, as a tool of foreign policy or defence diplomacy, involves peace-time cooperative use of armed forces and related infrastructure (MoD agencies). Historically, military cooperation and assistance have largely been part of international *realpolitik*, balance of power politics and pursuit of narrowly defined national interests. States engaged in defence cooperation with, and provided military assistance to, other states in order to counter-balance or deter enemies, maintain spheres of influence, support friendly regimes in suppressing domestic opponents or to promote commercial interests, such as arms sales or more general trade relations. In the pre-World War II period, the imperial and colonial powers reflected this approach, and in the post-World War II period, the new powers of the Cold War, the USA and USSR, were major proponents of the approach. Defence and military cooperation is now being employed not only in its longstanding *realpolitik* role of supporting the armed forces and security of allies, but also as a means of pursuing wider foreign and security policy goals. Military cooperation and assistance is being used to build cooperative relationships. Western democracies employ military cooperation and assistance to promote democratic civilian control of armed forces as part of wider efforts to support liberal democracy and good governance, prepare partner states in developing the capacity to contribute to UN peace operations as is being done by the US under its Enhanced International Peace-Keeping Capabilities (EIPC) programme, NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme, French assistance to African nations in the field of peace operations, and the UK's military courses in South Asia on the subject of civil control of defence in a democratic government. Further, most countries face a dilemma on balancing new military cooperation initiatives with long standing allies and the efforts at strategic engagement with potential adversaries.

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Out of the various spheres of bilateral international cooperation that are available, security and more specifically, defence cooperation, is a very important area. It enables engagement with one of the five main elements of the state viz. political or governmental, economic, cultural, intellectual and defence. This is not to say that defence is not a part of government. However, political parties may change and with it, manifestos, short-term national aims, objectives and goals and the means adopted to achieve these. The defence establishment would, however, continue to be occupied with the primary aim of defence of the state. Thus, contacts and engagement with the defence establishment, while taking the cue from the political and governmental positions, could continue to serve whatever mutuality in the respective primary aims of defence of the state.

History shows that defence cooperation has been practised since the ancient times, essentially as allies in the prosecution of hostilities undertaken in the defence of the realm or to conquer other territories. In more recent times, the allies first fought Germany in World War I and later the Axis Powers in World War II. After World War II, during the Cold War, we saw major defence cooperation amongst the respective militaries of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. In the American efforts to “contain” Communism, we have the US-led military alliances of the Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO) and Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) and the alliances during the Korean War of the 1950s. During America's Vietnam War in the 1960s and 1970s, China and the erstwhile USSR cooperated with North Vietnam against South Vietnam and America. Thereafter, in the 1970s and 1980s, America cooperated with Pakistan and rebel Afghan forces against the erstwhile USSR and Afghan government. More recently, we find the “Coalition of the Willing” assisting the USA in its “Global War on Terror” (GWOT), in Afghanistan and Iraq. The North Atlantic Treaty serves as an excellent example of how a political treaty with full time defence and military to military cooperation resulted in peace, stability and economic and social development between former adversaries and in Western Europe. This success could be attributed, in a major way, to the existence of cooperative arrangements in the military field in the form of NATO forces. In the Asia-Pacific

region, Australia's efforts at establishing and maintaining strategic defence partnerships with various Pacific island countries deserves to be commended.

Since the 1990s, there has been an increasing rise in the use of military cooperation and assistance, more as an instrument of building cooperative relations with former or potential adversaries or countries of current strategic interest. The status of Indo-US defence and military relations is a fine example. China's "New Security Concept" defined in 1997, is based on cooperative and coordinated security<sup>7</sup>.

The break-up of the USSR and the cessation of the Cold War led to a paradigm shift in international relations. Erstwhile adversaries became partners in managing change and endeavoured to achieve economic growth and social development of the people. Suddenly, many nations such as the European nations, do not have a conceivable conventional external military threat. Many developed countries were forced to cut the force levels of their armed forces to painfully unacceptable levels or to redefine the roles for their armed forces. While there has been some resultant force reduction, the need to maintain a viable and effective military apparatus is considered mandatory and inescapable as part of the need for external security and to retain the option of using the military for strategic reasons. In the case of the 'Western democracies,' with the break-up of the Soviet Union and consequent end of the Cold War and conventional threats, they gravitated towards the use of the Defence Ministries and their armed forces as means of building cooperative relationships with other states and supporting them in reforming their militaries. We see a shift from defence relationships driven by responses to conventional threat perceptions and *realpolitik* to bilateral and multilateral defence cooperation, albeit under the ever-

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7. Michael Yahuda, *The International Politics of Asia Pacific*, 2nd & Revised Edition (New York: Routledge Curzon, 2004), p. 300.

present umbrella of national aims and *realpolitik*. The lead has been provided by the developed countries which are members of the NATO military alliance, such as the USA, UK and France.

Countries like the UK, France and USA have developed international defence cooperation as a role for their armed forces in pursuance of their national foreign and security policies. The UK in its Strategic Defence Review conducted in 1986 included defence diplomacy as one of its defence missions<sup>8</sup>. The September 11, 2001 attack on the United States caused further convulsions in the international security environment. The global threat from terrorism, which was relatively

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distant to the USA and less so to Western Europe, assumed a major threat to national security, particularly to the safety of the lives of the people, the economy and the resultant impact on standards of living. The spread of terrorism and its increasing global reach has, since 2001, made terrorism the major military, albeit non-conventional, threat for most countries. The transnational common threat from terrorism has provided

an important, albeit, very altered, role for the armed forces of many nations that have no immediate perceivable military threats. This global or common threat has resulted in greater defence and military cooperation. Other than mainly military or combat cooperation as we see in Afghanistan and Iraq, we also see transnational military cooperation in the field of humanitarian relief and assistance, as was done in response to the devastation of the tsunami of December 2004. The Indian subcontinent has in the recent past seen the nuclearisation of India and Pakistan (1998), the Kargil War (1999) and India's counter-proxy war efforts to counter, what it accuses Pakistan of conducting, a proxy war in India through Islamic militants. All this notwithstanding, there has been a shift towards non-confrontation with a bilateral ceasefire on the line of control effective from December 2003.

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8. Official website of UK's Ministry of Defence <[www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk)>



In Asia, the USA has sought to use international defence and military cooperation as a means of building new cooperative relationships with India and China. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) has initiated cautious moves towards multilateral security dialogue in the Asia-Pacific region. The Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)<sup>9</sup> was set up in 1993, bringing together security studies centres within the region to provide a Track II process for a more structured regional process of a non-governmental nature to contribute to the efforts towards regional confidence building and enhancing regional security through dialogues, consultation and cooperation. As part of its wider strategy of international cooperation, Australia has developed new military ties with India and China, and has undertaken efforts to help the smaller Pacific island states in areas such as UN peace operations and security of arms stockpiles. Japan has undertaken revision of its defence guidelines, and is slowly beginning to pursue bilateral and multilateral defence dialogue and exchanges with neighbouring states, including China and South Korea. In South America, the defence ministers of the Organisation of American States (OAS) met a number of times and have initiated limited steps towards bilateral and multilateral defence and military cooperation. Finally, Africa has a number of defence and military cooperative arrangements within the African Union (AU), South African Development Community (SADC) and Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS).

## **BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE AND MILITARY COOPERATION**

The sensitive security situation in a country's immediate region directly impacts on its internal security, defence preparedness, economic development and national economy. It also affects its standing in the international community regarding its ability to ensure or contribute to peace, stability and development in its immediate region and globally. A nation's Ministry of Defence is responsible for the preparedness and conduct of war and as such must be actively involved in all such actions to thwart security threats, in as much that

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9. CSCAP official website [www.cscap.org](http://www.cscap.org)

the Ministry of External Affairs is responsible for international relations. International defence and military cooperation can be employed as a foreign policy tool to further national strategic and security aims. It requires not only a conceptual framework, especially for re-moulding the mind to change the way we think about security matters, but also concrete actions to shape the security environment<sup>10</sup>.

Undertaking international defence and military cooperation would be an important means of ensuring national security, both internal and external, as

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part of foreign policy for international relations and engagement. All international defence cooperation must be integrated with the national strategic policy and foreign policy. Participation in international defence and military cooperation would be vital in ensuring the nation's security through international relations. At the political level or macro level, international defence and military cooperation can be used as a strategic engagement tool as an indicator of willingness to pursue broader

cooperation, mutual trust and commitment to overcome and manage differences. International defence and military cooperation could also be used as a means of introducing transparency, particularly with regard to a nation's intentions and capabilities, building or reinforcing perceptions of common interest, support to specific and concrete defence reforms, and may also be used as an incentive to encourage partner states to cooperate in other areas<sup>11</sup>.

The countries involved in defence cooperation must collectively agree to refrain from acts of aggression and to protect each other from such acts by any other nation, leading to cooperation, first during peace-time where bonds are cemented, to be able to stand the stress and strain, subsequently, in times of

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10. The Planning Commission, n.1, p. 936.

11. Andrew Cottey and Anthony Fraser, "Reshaping Defence: New Roles for Military Cooperation and Assistance," *Adelphi Papers* (IISS), vol. 365, May 2004, pp. 15-16.

actual combat. Each country undertakes a range of international defence cooperation to meet its own requirements. The US military conducts joint exercises with the Indian military to engage India and obtain its participation in America's GWOT and ensure that Indian actions do not distract Pakistan from playing its part on its eastern borders with Afghanistan and the Islamic comity in support of US national aims, objectives and efforts. India, on the other hand, derives the benefit of exposure and access to American military technology and to open a channel for access to high end technology military equipment, advances in the military such as the revolution in military affairs (RMA) and network-centric warfare (NCW) and to open a channel for access to other high end dual technology in the fields of missiles and space. In the case of Indo-Singapore joint air exercises, India derives the benefit of access to the capabilities of the F-16 fighters, something that was not available in Indo-US joint air exercises where the US employed F-15 fighters, while Singapore benefits for free flying training, for which otherwise they pay to use the air space elsewhere in the USA and Australia. The benefits of international defence and military cooperation are many. It would create a stable and peaceful security environment in the region and the world through conflict prevention and resolution; negate, through cooperation, inimical intentions and activities affecting internal and external, including maritime, interests; dispel hostility, build and maintain confidence and trust in the region(s) of interest; strengthen defence relationships to promote own influence and access to the area and decision-makers; assist in greater

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international acceptance of the nation's willingness and ability to work towards conflict resolution and post-conflict management through participation in UN Peace-Keeping Operations (PKOs) or coalitions and humanitarian assistance and relief; enhance own defence capability in areas of defence equipment, make own defence industry and research and development (R&D) financially viable, assist friendly foreign countries to develop their defence capability without impinging on the security of the nation, promote defence and military interoperability for possible joint operations. International defence and military cooperation also facilitates impacting foreign perceptions, assessing foreign perceptions and intentions and projecting own peaceful intentions as

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also military capabilities and strengths as a form of deterrence.

International defence and military cooperation could be undertaken within the umbrella of a formal defence and military alliance, such as NATO, etc, or as part of bilateral and multinational military arrangements. While the benefits that accrue are numerous, some of the important ones are listed below:

- Greater transparency during cooperation activities builds trust and confidence between partners.
- Ideally, the best military cooperation is achieved when equipment, weapons, systems, practices and procedures are common. Military cooperation enhances interoperability through standardised systems, practices and procedures or, if standardisation is not a part of the arrangement, an understanding of each other's systems, practices and procedures.
- It can lead to more efficient provision of military capability through sharing of logistics capabilities which could result from economies of scale and volume. This would particularly benefit nations with small defence forces.
- Enable nations to contribute to capabilities that they could not otherwise sustain individually. Within the NATO, the BENELUX nations offer some good examples such as Dutch/Belgian naval cooperation based on the operational HQ at Denhelder; Luxemburg's participation as part of the

Belgian contribution in the Balkans and the Belgian-Dutch Deployable Air Tactical Force. Australia's Pacific Patrol Boat Programme to enable the Pacific islands nations to effectively police the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the region is another example.

- Increase the capacity of participant nations to contribute during operations through sharing of experiences by means such as training, military advisors and experts exchanges.
- Project the image of the military in the international military community to underline the nation's role as a contributing and responsible member of the international community.
- A group effort, whether in conducting active operations, or for humanitarian reasons such as disaster relief and assistance, results in a much larger political effect of the military action.
- International defence and military cooperation could lead to a mutually beneficial and cooperative relationship with militaries in the region and the world, while enhancing own military capability in terms of human resource potential through knowledge of military systems and usage by incorporating the best practices. It could eventually lead to peace and stability in the region, and right sized modern defence forces to ensure physical security (in a more secure and mature environment) with right sized defence budgets and expenditures, thereby creating a better environment for national development and betterment of the people.

## **RISKS OF CONDUCTING INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE AND MILITARY COOPERATION**

Notwithstanding the benefits listed above, cooperation for nations has certain risks arising from likely differences in the respective national aims and objectives and the constraints that they impose on the relationship. Some of these risks could be:

- Conflict between national and joint cooperative aims and objectives—bilateral or multilateral defence and military cooperation must not be at the risk of own defence and military requirements and capabilities. National security must remain in the hands of own citizens.

- Sharing of sensitive defence information may result in compromising the country's defence capability.
- Viable and beneficial cooperation levels are difficult to establish. Decisions may result in counter-productive relations due to language barriers, attitudinal and cultural differences, poor interoperability, etc. Constant interaction at reasonably high levels would enable refining the relationship(s).
- Cooperation may result in differences in cost sharing. It may result in differential sharing and avoidable expenditure. While all cooperative arrangements must be cost-effective options, the intangible gains would have to be factored in and not be confined to purely financial issues.
- Danger to own personnel, specially in joint operations, through variable risk analyses and operating procedures, rules of engagement and decision-making procedures.
- Finally, international defence and military cooperation cannot overcome substantial political differences, but could help to diffuse military tensions, leading to the creation of a less tense political environment. This, in turn, could provide a breakthrough for political dialogue.

#### **PREREQUISITES FOR CONDUCTING INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE AND MILITARY COOPERATION**

To guard against the risks mentioned above, an international defence and military cooperation relationship would be best pursued when it meets the following prerequisites:

- It ensures and enhances external and internal national security.
- It enhances own defence and military capability.
- It does not prejudice own national security interests or the capacity of the military to act alone, if required.
- It relates to the capabilities that are required for the implementation of goals and initiatives of any alliance/arrangement/agreement that the nation is a member/signatory of.
- It is compatible with links with other cooperative arrangements or alliances, if any, and does not threaten these links.

### **SUGGESTED AIMS OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY COOPERATION**

The aims of defence and military cooperation could be to undertake international defence and military engagement and cooperation to create a stable and peaceful security environment in the region and the world, which would be in some way favourable to the nation, while enhancing its own defence and military capability to ensure internal and external security of the nation.

**The aims of defence and military cooperation could be to undertake international defence and military engagement and cooperation to create a stable and peaceful security environment in the region and the world.**

### **SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES FOR DEFENCE AND MILITARY COOPERATION**

Emerging from the aims, the defence and military cooperation objectives could be as under:

- Create a stable and peaceful security environment in the region and the world through conflict prevention and resolution by establishing suitable programmes.
- Negate, through engagement, inimical intentions and activities affecting internal and external interests, including maritime interests.
- Dispel hostility, build and maintain confidence and trust in the region(s) of interest.
- Strengthen defence relationships to promote own influence and access to area and decision-makers.
- Participation in UN PKO and coalitions and international humanitarian assistance, and relief operations and post-conflict management.
- Enhance own defence capability in areas of defence equipment.
- Make own defence industry and R&D financially viable.
- Assist friendly foreign countries to develop their defence capability without impinging on own national security.

- Undertake international military engagement to create mutually beneficial and cooperative relationships with militaries in the region and the world while enhancing own military capability in terms of human resource potential through knowledge of military systems and usage by incorporating the best practices.
- Promote defence and military interoperability.

### DEFENCE AND MILITARY COOPERATION ACTIONS

In order to achieve the desired aims and objectives of defence and military cooperation, a variety of cooperation actions could be undertaken as under:

- Shape the security environment, dispel and negate inimical activities/intentions through political, security and strategic defence dialogues; defence (cooperation) agreements/memorandums of understanding (MoUs)/treaties; transparency in intent with regard to national policy, projection of strengths and capabilities; assistance in maintenance of lawful government; professional personnel contacts and exchange of perceptions.

**Undertake international military engagement to create mutually beneficial and cooperative relationships with militaries in the region and the world.**

- Strengthen defence relationships to promote own influence and access.
- Participation in UN PKOs or coalitions and humanitarian assistance and relief.
- Enhancing own defence capability in areas of defence industry and equipment and making own defence industry and R&D financially viable through joint development ventures.
- Assistance to friendly foreign countries to develop their defence capability without impinging on own national security.
- Promote defence and military interoperability.
- Setting up a national framework for international defence and military cooperation.



## **TOOLS AND MECHANISMS OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY COOPERATION**

In order to conceive, plan, coordinate, execute, review and refine international defence and military cooperation, the various tools would be agreements (MoUs, treaties, etc) forming the basis for cooperation, strategic dialogue at the political and strategic levels, military and military cooperation and technical (defence industry and R&D) cooperation with the support of well organised defence cooperation agencies, appropriate funding and forums for interaction with the participating countries. The mechanisms of defence cooperation would include internal and international organisations; hierarchy and procedures for internal decision-making and monitoring of progress; and budgetary allocations.

## **BROAD RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE AND MILITARY COOPERATION ACTIVITIES**

The broad range of international defence and military cooperation activities includes strategic security activities, military to military cooperation activities, defence industry cooperation activities, defence R&D cooperation activities, high level visits – ministers, chiefs and vice chiefs of defence services, secretaries of departments of Ministry of Defence, defence related thought and perception exchanges – seminars, symposia, conferences, expositions, exhibitions, visits, etc.

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## **MILITARY TO MILITARY COOPERATION**

Militaries the world over, on account of their nature of work, have a unique ethos. This comes from the requirement of having to be prepared to lay down their lives in the pursuit of national security. This has, since time immemorial, resulted in a distinct difference in the approach from their civilian peers, to life in general and the profession in particular. This unique ethos necessitates a

separate range of military to military cooperation activities, which obviously cannot be undertaken by non-military or even civilian defence personnel. Personal contacts often even transcend formal inter-nation hostilities and could be a major crisis defusing tool. Professional assessment through a range of contacts could result in more realistic threat assessments and eliminate overcautious and threatening overreaching to unrealistic and costly assessments. Military cooperation could span a wide range of activities and most of these are listed below:

- Cooperation covering joint operations/exercises/logistics and communications initiatives, intelligence cooperation and sharing, expert exchanges, visits, interoperability initiatives, military infrastructural development – in areas of training, operations and administrative facilities and infrastructure; military functional practices and civil-military relations, humanitarian assistance/relief, defence related thought and perception exchanges – organisation of seminars, symposia, conferences, expositions, exhibitions in the country and abroad, formal forums for interaction – executive steering groups, military committees, staff talks, etc; professional military exchanges such as instructors, advisors, staff officers, experts, short, medium and long-term attachments in units, headquarters, liaison personnel at all levels; port/ship visits and forum for exchange of information, cooperation and maintenance of transparency – websites, journals, magazines.
- Training in the form of military courses, training/advisory/assessment military teams and exchanges.
- Equipment related exchanges, training, etc.
- Participation in UN peace-keeping activities, including operational deployment and training.

## CONCLUSION

While the need for defence and military cooperation is well documented and accepted, countries have adopted different approaches to international defence and military cooperation that are demonstrative of their intentions. International

defence and military cooperation can be employed to create an environment of peace and stability in the region, with right sized modern defence forces with right sized expenditure, thereby, contributing to the creation of an environment for economic development and betterment of the people. Thus, any right thinking nation will optimise its international defence and military cooperation ability by creating dedicated organisations and empowering them with policy guidelines, funding and the authority to transact business.

