

DIRECTORATE OF INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE COOPERATION

1. The changing strategic context marked by the end of the Cold War, demise of bi-polarity, and the emergence of a multi-polar world has accorded a new salience to defence diplomacy. In the context of the changing nature of warfare from conventional to the hybrid, the rise of new security challenges like violent extremism and terrorism, migrations, pandemics, climate change, threats in cyberspace as well as in outer space, the role of defence forces is also undergoing a transformation. Other than preparing to fight wars, they also have numerous peacetime functions. These include, providing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and complementing diplomatic activity in promoting international peace and security in line with the overall national policy. In a world driven by conflicts, HQ IDS continues to engage with and increase its influence in the global order through means of Defence Diplomacy.

2. Defence Cooperation has been an important component of India's overall diplomacy. At present, India has defence cooperation agreements of one kind or the other with over 53 countries. India needs to reflect how best to use its defence forces, and defence related scientific, technical, business and academic communities to defend its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity in the face of shifting power equations and new challenges. India also uses the Armed Forces to further India's national interests by contributing proactively to achieve international peace and security as well as creating conducive conditions for accelerating India's ongoing transformation.

3. Defence diplomacy is not a static concept. Providing a strategic context to defence cooperation efforts in the changing security environment is important. The need to engage with the rest of the world on defence issues has become more relevant. Defence diplomacy signifies the art and process of conducting a country's defence related activities in progressing relations with other countries. India's profile as a security partner has improved in concert with its economic and scientific growth and its military stands out as a stabilizing factor in the region. On a number of occasions India has successfully used diplomatic and defence instruments in responding to humanitarian and natural disasters worldwide. Indian Armed forces has also been a significant contributor to UN Peacekeeping efforts since independence. In the emerging geopolitical environment, defence cooperation is increasingly becoming a dynamic tool for achieving India's overall diplomatic objectives. The IDC directorate plays with Defence diplomatic tools under HQ IDS to promote peace and tranquility.

Organisation of IDC

4. Defence Planning Staff was created in 1986 to provide dedicated staff for the COSC. The primary task of DPS was envisaged as strategic and perspective

planning. Among the other duties, DG DPS was also mandatory to carryout regional studies on our military interests, with special emphasis on South East Asia, Africa, West Asia etcfor formulation of regional strategic perspective. The aim of the Directorate of international Defence Cooperation (Dte of IDC) is to secure national interests through military means without use of hard power. Defence Diplomacy working within the defined parameters of the nation's foreign policy is aimed at achieving a climate of confidence necessary for development of political, economic and cultural relations between two nations. The Dte of IDC does this job under direct guidance of the CISC, HQ IDS.

5. Subsequently, HQ IDS was raised in Oct 2001. As DG DPA had been actively associated with the promotion of International and Regional Defence Cooperation and had been nominated as the nodal agency for Defence Cooperation with other countries by the COSC, an office of the JS (International Affairs) was authorized in the HQ. The JS(IA)'s Office is envisaged to provide the foreign policy inputs for formulating military advice.

6. As HQ IDS evolved, a need was felt to have a single point agency in HQ IDS to handle all issues relating to International Defence Cooperation. With this in view, new International Defence Cooperation Cell (IDC Cell) was created as an adjunct of the FP Division of the PP&FD Branch in Oct 2005 to coordinate all matters relating to international Defence Cooperation. In Oct 2007, the Organisation Structure was flattened. This resulted in the creating of the Directorate of IDC directly under the CISC with JS (IA) serving as the advisor of the CISC on International Affairs. The directorate has been placed under the Defence Intelligence Agency wef 01 Mar 2016.

7. **Org.** The Dte having been placed under the Defence Intelligence Agency Branch functions under DG DIA & DCIDS (Int).

Role of the Directorate

8. The role of the Dte of IDC is envisaged as under :-

(a) Collects the inputs from grass root level and provide inputs to steer policy on Defence Cooperation and advice on implications of cooperation with various countries.

(b) Collate Strategic & Military Environment analysis and brief foreign delegations and individuals on India's Strategic and Security Perspective.

(c) Promote Joint Operations & Joint Services aspects.

- (d) Co-Chair/ Coordinate all military to military talks above Service to Service level (MSGs/ MCG).
- (e) Participate in all MoD level Defence Cooperation forums by deputing a Rep.
- (f) Provide suggestions towards Defence Cooperation with Friendly Foreign nations.

9. The International Defence Cooperation mechanism is conducted by MoD at various levels. The Strategic Military Cooperation Dialogues takes place at the level of RM, Policy Group/ Joint Defence Committees groups led by Defence Secretary/ Additional Secretaries, and various Working Groups are organised under Department of Defence Production, DRDO and Defence acquisition wing while the Military Cooperation Groups/ Military Sub-Committees are conducted by Dte of IDC/ HQ IDS. The Service level talks, i.e., ESGs/ Staff Talks are conducted by the respective Services.

Defence Cooperation Forum of HQ IDS

10. HQ IDS conducts various MCGs/ MSGs/ MSCs meetings with the following countries :-

- (a) USA - MCG
- (b) France - MSC
- (c) Russia - Staff Talks
- (d) Maldives - Staff Talks
- (e) Italy - MCG
- (f) Germany - MCSG
- (g) ARF - Defence Official's Dialogue