Armed Force Joint Doctrine

Why in news?

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The Armed Forces have recently put out a joint doctrine.

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What are the features?

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- The document addresses the principles guiding the Indian military's approach to everything from nuclear war to internal security and counter-insurgency.
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- The doctrine explicitly acknowledges that "surgical strikes" will be a formal part of India's retaliatory toolkit against "terror provocations."
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- This is the first authoritative document released by the Indian government to use the phrase of "credible minimum deterrence" (CMD) in place of "credible deterrence" (CD).
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- The doctrine paints potentially a new portrait of how India separates the control of its nuclear weapons between military and civilian authorities.
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- The doctrine is revealing of the Indian military's contemporary preferences for expeditionary and overseas operations.
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- e.g The document calls for "complete and effective inter-operability" with "countries, big and small" — a tacit endorsement of ever-closer logistics, communications, and intelligence collaboration with countries ranging from the United States, Japan, and Australia to smaller powers in Southeast Asia.
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What should be done?

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- Our Armed Forces is structured and operated in compartments.
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- The need of the hour is the integrated mechanisms.
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- A Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) was recommended for this purpose.
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- He would be the principal military advisor to the government and oversee joint operational functioning of the three wings.
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- India is still a largely continental country and threats to its territorial integrity.
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- This clearly calls for land-based responses of various kinds, supported by the use of air power where necessary.
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- Land power will continue to play a seminal role in our security concerns.
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- So we need a single-point military advisor who must be an army person in the foreseeable future, and that authority should oversee operational functions.
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- We could also have some army-air force unified commands especially in the northern sectors.
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- But we must recognise the fact that the optimal concept of full integration is not feasible for some time to come.
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- The sum of Rs 2.74 lakh crore that we will spend this year on defence preparedness is not something to be scoffed at.
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- It must give value for money not just in numbers and types of ships or aircraft or guns or tanks, but in the quality of management that their exploitation must involve.
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Source: Business Standard

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