ONLINE COURSE

INDIA'S MILITARY STRATEGY
ITS CRAFTING AND IMPLEMENTATION

BROCHURE
The Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR) is offering a three week course on India’s Military Strategy. Aimed at students, analysts and researchers, this unique course is designed and delivered by highly-regarded former members of the Indian Armed Forces, former bureaucrats, and eminent academics.

The aim of this course is to help participants critically understand India’s military strategy informed by history, examples and empirical evidence. Led by people who have ‘been there and done that’, the course deconstructs and clarifies the mechanisms which give effect to the country’s military strategy.

By demystifying India’s military strategy and what factors influence it, the course connects the crafting of this strategy to the logic behind its crafting.

**WHY THIS COURSE?**

- **Learn about**
  - General and specific ideas that have shaped India’s military strategy across decades.
  - Institutional frameworks and processes.
  - Key drivers and compulsions behind India’s strategic thinking.

- **Identify**
  - Key actors and institutions involved in designing military strategy - their roles and responsibilities.
  - Causal relationships among a multitude of variables that impact India’s military strategy.

- **Understand**
  - The reasoning applied during military decision making in India
  - Where theory meets practice.
  - Fundamentals of military crisis management and escalation/de-escalation dynamics.
  - Role of domestic politics in and external influences on India’s military strategy.
  - Threat perception within the defense establishment and its military arms.
- **Explain**
  - India’s military organization and its constituent parts.
  - India’s military options and contingencies for the region and beyond.
  - India’s strategic partnerships and outreach.
  - India’s crisis response.
  - India’s military strengths and the South Asian military balance.

- **Predict**
  - Future trajectory of India’s armed forces’ organization and working.
  - Defense policy adaptations to geopolitical transformations.

**WHO SHOULD TAKE THIS COURSE?**

- Mid-career researchers, graduate students, and analysts interested in issues pertaining to national security and military affairs based in India and abroad.
- Early career professionals looking to expand their knowledge on Indian defense policy and networks.

Last date for Applying: **30th August 2021**
Course begins: **5th September 2021**
Course ends: **26th September 2021**

Read more

Apply Now
COURSE INSTRUCTORS

Lt. Gen. D. S. Hooda (Retd.)
Former GOC IN C, Northern Command

Lt. Gen. I.S. Singha (Retd.)
Former Force Commander, Golan Heights

Lt. Gen. S. Dua (Retd.)
Former Chief of Integrated Defense Staff

Lt. Gen. Anil Chauhan (Retd.)
Former Director General of Military Operations

Lt. Gen. P. Bakshi (Retd.)
Former GOC IN C, Eastern Command

Lt. Gen. A. K. Singh (Retd.)
Former Lt. Governor, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Dr. Anit Mukherjee
Deputy Head of Graduate Studies, NTU Singapore

Vice Admiral Vijay Shankar (Retd.)
Former C IN C, Strategic Forces Command

AVM (Dr) Arjun Subramaniam (Retd.)
President’s Chair of Excellence in National Security at National Defense College
COURSE INSTRUCTORS

Lt. Gen. S. Kulkarni (Retd.)
Former Director General Infantry

Lt. Gen. K.J. Singh (Retd.)
Former GOC IN C, Western Command

Lt. Gen. Sanjay Verma (Retd.)
Former Director General Weapons & Equipment

Col. Ajai Shukla (Retd.)
Analyst, Defense & Security Affairs

Dr. Bhartendu Singh
Senior Officer, Indian Defense Accounts Service

Lt. Gen. Rakesh Sharma (Retd.)
Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Land Warfare Studies

Air Marshal Anil Khosla (Retd.)
Former Vice Chief of the Air Staff

Lt. Gen. Anil K. Bhalla (Retd.)
Former Director General, Defense Intelligence Agency
Course Structure
Course Introduction

Lt. Gen. D. S. Hooda (Retd.), Course Curator, will lay down the learning objectives and vision of this course.

Day 2:
06.09.21
1730 - 1900 hrs IST

Organizational Structure

In this session, Col. Ajai Shukla (Retd.) will outline the organizational structure of the three services of the Indian Armed Forces. Further, he will discuss how this structure has evolved over time due to various triggers and explain how the different elements of this structure coordinate during a crisis and in peacetime.

Day 3:
07.09.21
1730 - 1900 hrs IST

The Ministry of Defense, Department of Military Affairs, and Theaterisation

In this session, Lt. Gen. S. Dua (Retd.) will tackle the organization and responsibilities of the Ministry of Defense and the Department of Military Affairs. He will discuss the coordination between the Chiefs of each service, the Chief of Defence Staff, and the bureaucracy — in ensuring joint action and operations of the Integrated Theatre Commands.
India’s Military Culture and Ethos

In this session, AVM (Dr) Arjun Subramaniam (Retd.) will look at India’s military culture and ethos, its British legacies, and evolution over time. The session will also explore the peremptory tenets that foster national service in the armed forces and will analyze the dynamic elements that define the Indian military’s relationship with civil society.

Civil-Military Relations in India

In this session, Dr. Anit Mukherjee will adopt a historical view of the evolution of civil-military relations in India and the effective contribution of the military on decisions of national security. It will explore the formal structures of decision-making on the employment of military force and how these structures operate.

Military Intelligence

In this session, Lt. Gen. Anil Bhalla (Retd.) will explain the role of military intelligence in threat assessment, capability development of planning, and preemption. A military with effective intelligence capabilities can gain a substantial advantage on and off the Warfield. So where does intelligence gathering in the Indian military stand today?
India-China-Pakistan Military Balance

In this session, Lt. Gen. Rakesh Sharma (Retd.) will examine the security threat posed from the east and west by China and Pakistan. He will analyze the impact of force levels, threat perceptions, and geography on India's preparedness vis-a-vis these two adversaries.

Mobilising for War

In this session, Lt. Gen. I.S. Singha (Retd.) will discuss the speedy mobilisation of the Indian military in strategically important sectors. He will outline the process of 'offensive defense', redeployment, and whether our forces are now more mobile in meeting the security needs of our country. The discussion will also focus on how the options to attack, seize territory or deescalate conflict weigh in on decision making.

India’s Maritime Strategy

In this session, Vice Admiral Vijay Shankar (Retd.) will explain how India's peninsular orientation and geostrategic location have inextricably linked our security and prosperity to the seas. The discussion will cover the crucial role of the Indian Navy in safeguarding our maritime boundary, combating persisting threats in the Indian Ocean, and maintaining strategic alliances.
The Influence of Airpower

In this session, Air Marshal Anil Khosla (Retd.) will trace the growth of the Indian Air Force from a tactical force to a credible air power with transoceanic reach. He will explore the impact of technology up-gradation through aircraft acquisition, precision missiles, and net centricity on preparedness for multi-domain warfare.

Indian Army’s Strategy – Western Front

In this session, Lt. Gen. K.J. Singh (Retd.) will cover the historically inherited territorial disputes and land-centric conflicts rattling the Western front of India. He will assess our preparedness to deal with conventional and asymmetric threats in the backdrop of nuclear coercion from across our Western border.

The Siachen Conflict

In this session, Lt. Gen. S. Kulkami (Retd.) & Lt. Gen. D. S. Hooda (Retd.) will examine the political, geographic, and geopolitical dictates that drive India and Pakistan towards conflict in the inhospitable Siachen Glacier. The discussion will detail the military conflict since 1984 and the planning, execution, and continued operational cost of maintaining logistics to cope with the hostile dispute.
Indian Army’s Strategy – Northern Front

In this session, Lt. Gen. P. Bakshi (Retd.) will discuss the territorial disputes of India's northern borders dealing with our trans-Himalayan neighbor China agonized by the McMahon Line and the contentions over Aksai Chin. He will trace the development of India's military strategy and answer pertinent questions about the impact of the 2020 Ladakh standoff.

The Two-Front Challenge

In this session, Lt. Gen. A. K. Singh (Retd.) will focus on the possible security predicaments emanating from a two-front war with China and Pakistan as a formidable challenge in upcoming years. This session will explore the various forms in which a collaborative threat from India's two nuclear-armed neighbors can manifest and the function of our military in meeting such a challenge.

India’s Counter-Insurgency Strategy

In this session, Lt. Gen. Anil Chauhan (Retd.) will analyze the need to successfully curb insurgency by commanding and synchronizing multiple lines of operations, mobilizing combined-arms operations to route insurgents out of their strongholds, and providing security against their incursions into population centers.
The Defense Budget

In this session, Dr. Bhartendu Kumar Singh will discuss the making of India's defense budget. He will outline the processes, agencies, and individuals that contribute to this massive undertaking and look at how Indian defense budgets have evolved to reflect the country's security needs.

India's Defense Modernization

In this session, Lt. Gen. Sanjay Verma (Retd.) will analyze if the structures that the Indian military is operating under are effective in dealing with contemporary threats? He will address the issue of modernization, the procurement procedure followed by the Ministry of Defense, and the role of the public and private defense sectors in meeting India's security needs.

Preparing for the Future

In this session, Lt. Gen. D. S. Hooda (Retd.) will lay out the foremost challenges the Indian military faces: the acute need to modernize the forces, revisiting the impact of technology, and assessing the novel threat spectrum. This session will discuss the Indian military's warfighting strategies and preparedness for multi-domain warfare.
The course is designed to be an interactive experience to facilitate deliberation. This is principally what distinguishes our course from a series of ‘talks’. It ensures that there is a sufficient degree of interaction between the speaker and the participants. The structure of the course, and the flow of sessions, ensure that participants are constantly aware of the inter-relation between different aspects of India’s military strategy.

Our approach is to cut straight to core issues and empirical data in ways that are relevant to military challenges in the real world. Each module is envisioned to strike a clear balance between disseminating essential facts, describing overarching trends, and focusing on the broader significance of specific events.

Two days of War Game, a detailed discussion of cases and some interactive sessions on subjects like – ‘India-China-Pakistan Military Balance’ & ‘India’s Counter-Insurgency Strategy’ are designed to present a holistic view of how the tri-services work. Our carefully curated concise readings for the course are aimed at providing a baseline understanding of key aspects prior to the commencement of the course.
Last date for Applying: 30th August 2021  
Course begins: 5th September 2021  
Course ends: 26th September 2021  
Course Fee: INR 25000 (including GST) for Indian nationals, and $500 (including GST) for foreign nationals.

Enquiries: courses@csdronline.org
“This course has helped me improve my understanding of the structure of the MEA. I now know how the MEA functions and how it interacts with other government agencies. I learned how the government manages diplomatic crises and why India took various foreign policy decisions.”

Ankita Bharadwaj
PhD Student
Department of Political Science, Dibrugarh University

“The course helped me understand how India's interests are represented and secured on the international stage. I also now understand the why and how of foreign policy decision-making. I found the reading materials extremely useful. I was able to read a vast amount of course-specific literature within 3 weeks. This was definitely a positive aspect.”

Sreesh S.
Daksha Fellow
Independent Consultant—Commercial Litigation and Advisory

“It was an excellent course for a person like me who aspires to join the Indian Foreign Services. This course is a must for others like me!”

Sanya Sharma
Graduate Student, Govt KRG College, Gwalior
Civil Services Aspirant
FEEDBACK TO OUR COURSES

“The course was conducted brilliantly - the punctuality that was observed, the structure of the sessions and most importantly - the interactive sessions at the end of each lecture. Apart from having in-depth learning about Indian foreign policy, the course helped me sharpen my analytical skills and expand my reading and research skills.”

Tanya Patwardhan
LLB Student, Bal Apte College, Mumbai

“From understanding the structural functioning of the MEA to learning about complex issues on foreign trade, negotiations, and intelligence, this course has taught it all. Each session provided valuable insights on an array of topics, thus expanding my perspective on how Indian foreign policy works. As an undergraduate student interested in this topic, I would dwell arbitrarily on various aspects. This course has given me clarity and helped me connect theory to practice.”

Navneet Sharma
Graduate Student, Madras Christian College

“This course has helped me learn different perspectives from experienced practitioners. It has helped me understand the complexities of Indian Foreign Policymaking and its implementation.”

Hritik Bhasin
Business Administration Professional