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INDIAN ARMY



MBT- (Main Battle Tank) Arjun on Display at Rajpath during Republic Day Parade, 2001

3.1 While safeguarding the territorial integrity of the nation against external aggression is the primary responsibility of the Indian Armed Forces. They are very often tasked to assist the civil authorities in internal security duties as well as rescue and relief operations. The enormity of their task can be gauged from the complex geo-political and geo-strategic environment that has been described in Chapter 1. Coupled with this, the country's long borders encompassing different geographical and climatic conditions ranging from desert terrain in the west to snow-covered mountains in the north and thick mountainous rain fed forests in the east set out the role that the Indian Army has to play to effectively meet the challenges to national security. In addition to undertaking these multifarious tasks, the Indian Army has initiated a series of Civic Action Programmes that aim not only at reconstructing the assets that have got destroyed due to terrorist/insurgency-related activities, but also at psychological healing of the affected populace.

MODERNISATION OF WEAPON SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE INDIAN ARMY

3.2. The modernisation of the Army is a continuous process based on expected budgetary allocations. All weapon systems are outdated at a point of time and are required to be replaced subsequently after completion of its useful life. In a large Army such as ours, it is not possible to replace every item in a short period of time.

3.3 Some of the important modernization

schemes that have been finalised post Kargil are as under:-

- (i) Weapons such as Anti Material Rifles, Multi Shot Grenade Launchers, Automatic Grenade Launchers, Under Barrel Grenade Launchers and Sniper Rifles have been procured to improve the fire power of infantry battalions.
- (ii) Night vision devices based on thermal Imaging have been procured to provide long range observation capabilities during night time.
- (iii) Battle Field Surveillance radars of both medium and short range have been contracted to improve surveillance capacity.
- (iv) All Terrain Vehicles to improve our logistic capability in heavy snow conditions.
- (v) Krasnopol terminally guided ammunition for 155 mm guns for engaging targets with pin point accuracy.
- (vi) Long Range Recce and observation system.
- (vii) High altitude UAVs.
- (viii) T-90 Tank to increase the capabilities of Armoured Regiments.

3.4 During the year, the Army successfully accomplished all the allotted tasks even under the most difficult and trying conditions - not only within the country but also abroad in different UN Missions. The relevant details in this regard are briefly described in the succeeding paras.

COUNTER INSURGENCY OPERATIONS JAMMU AND KASHMIR

3.5 The internal security situation in Jammu and Kashmir is, in effect, the consequence of a proxy war undertaken by Pakistan and the ISI as a 'Low Cost Option, for bleeding India by a thousand cuts'. There has been no let-up in the Pak-sponsored subversive activities in J&K; in fact, certain new trends have appeared during the year like the Fidayeen or suicide attacks on the posts and camps of the Security Forces. However, after the initial spate of such attacks in the first few months, a lack of motivation was discernible amongst the lower cadres as reflected in a deceleration in these desperate attempts. The latter half of the year, however, witnessed continuous escalation in the intensity of operations, with the number of terrorists killed in any one month ranging from 124 to 194. During September and October 2000, 368



*"RED DEVILS ON DARE DEVIL MISSION"
Paratroops going through final check before embarking the Aircraft.*

terrorists were eliminated by the Army, the highest for any corresponding period in the past ten years. Recent communication intercepts and the larger number of terrorist surrenders in October 2000 also give an indication of the effect of the Army's action on the morale of the terrorists. However, regular exchange of fire continued on the Line of Control till the unilateral suspension of operations by India in end November 2000, coinciding with the holy month of Ramzan. The Indian Government's initiative in announcing 'non-initiation of combat operations' for the month of Ramzan and subsequently extending the period into the New Year, first upto January 26, 2001 and then by another month, has been well received by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. But the reaction of terrorist tanzems, mainly those based in Pakistan, has been negative, leading to a marked escalation in terrorist initiated violence and increased casualties among civilians during this period.

3.6 Though the Government continued to take all steps for maintaining peace and law and order in Jammu and Kashmir, there has overall, been an escalation in the intensity of terrorist activities in the State. The announcement of a cease-fire by the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) on July 25, 2000 proved illusory as the organization revoked it abruptly on August 8, 2000. The weeks following the revocation of cease-fire were marked by a qualitative enhancement in violent incidents with extensive use of improvised explosive devices and a spurt in stand-off attacks on camps/bases of the Security Forces. That the announcement and subse-

quent revocation of cease-fire, resulted in a rift in the cadres operating south of the Pir Panjal Ranges is apparent. The Hizbul Mujahideen in this area is now in a state of disarray.

3.7 The Pak-sponsored terrorist outfits have been selectively carrying out high publicity actions to project Jammu and Kashmir as a major flash point and causing migration of sections of the minority community from the State. The massacre of innocent civilians, including the Sikhs in Chattisingpura, Amarnath pilgrims and the brick-kiln labourers initially in the Valley and subsequently in selected villages south of the Pir Panjal Ranges, is part of the deliberate design of these terrorist groups.

3.8 During the year, there were 906 terrorist-initiated incidents. With 126 reported incidents in December 2000, it was the worst period of the current year. Areas to the north and south of the Pir Panjal Ranges remained equally volatile, indicating terrorist design of geographical proliferation into the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir. Kupwara and Punch – Rajouri continued to witness very intense counter proxy war operations.

3.9 The security forces successfully foiled a large number of infiltration attempts during 2000. As against 68 such attempts foiled in 1999, 165 infiltration attempts were foiled in 2000 by the Security Forces, both on the Line of Control and the International Border. The unique feature of the infiltration attempts this year was that the International Border sector was activated by Pakistan prior to such attempts.

3.10 Relentless and intensive operations by the Security Forces have resulted in a total of 1432 terrorists killed, 274 apprehended and 76 surrendering.

NORTH EAST

3.11 The over four decades old insurgency in the North East continues to simmer while retaining its low-key posture. Protracted operations by the Security Forces have resulted in the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) being holed up in camps in South Bhutan, and bringing the National Socialists Council of Nagaland (Issac-Muivah) [NSCN I-M] and the Border Liberation Tiger Force (BLTF) to the negotiating table, besides increasing the pressure on the valley-based insurgent groups in Manipur.

3.12 While the cease-fire with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Issac -Muivah) in place since August 1, 1997, is holding



EMP (Engineer Mine Plough)- Fitted on T-92 Tank on display at Rajpath, during RD Parade. 2001

out satisfactorily, the NSCN (I-M) has of late stepped up its demand for extension of the cease-fire outside Nagaland. As regards National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) [NSCN-K], 'suspension of operations arrangement', which is in place since November 15, 1998, has been extended by six months with effect from October 16, 2000.

3.13 Even though Meitei insurgency in Manipur continues to simmer in the Valley Districts, the ongoing cease-fire with NSCN (I-M) in Nagaland has kept the Hill Districts of Manipur relatively dormant. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) raided the police station at Jiribam on October 20, 2000 and took away 36 weapons. On November 21, 2000, the UNLF targeted a column of 17 Para Field Regiment and 21 Para SF. In this incident, three jawans were injured and five jawans were killed. Law and order problems were also created by other terrorist outfits in Manipur.

3.14 The overall situation in Tripura continued to create major law and order problems during the year. However, the operations launched by the Security Forces compelled the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) to stay in their shelters beyond the International Border. United Bengali Liberation Front (UBLF) has also been active in the recent past in targeting tribals and has the potential of vitiating the security environment.

3.15 Besides keeping both the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and the National



"ICE FOOTBALL"- Jawans enjoying while clearing Advance Landing Ground (ALG) somewhere in Northern Sector

Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) trapped in their camps in South Bhutan, sustained military operations have resulted in near marginalisation of the terrorists in the State of Assam. The large number of surrenders, totalling 2543, along with 673 weapons, since July 1998 substantiates this assessment. However, in a bid to show that their writ still runs in the State, terrorist groups continue to strike soft targets and indulge in sabotage activities. The ULFA has of late started targeting non-Assamese, possibly with the aim of disproving the claim of the State Government that ULFA is on the run and terrorising locals to regain its dwindling support. The NDFB has, in the recent past, targeted moderate Bodo leaders involved in the peace process and, of late, has also been engaging the Central Police Organisations/State Police Forces. The group

has also struck against Bhutanese nationals transiting through Assam and, since December 20, 2000, has killed 13 and injured 17 of them. 'Suspension of operations arrangement' effected between the Government of India and the Border Liberation Tiger Force (BLTF), has been continuing satisfactorily since March 15, 2000.

CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMMES.

3.16 The role of Civic Action Programmes is vital in winning the hearts and minds of the populace in insurgency affected areas. Despite the havoc caused by terrorists, both in Jammu and Kashmir and the North Eastern States, the Army and the Rashtriya Rifles have maintained the tempo in rebuilding whatever is laid waste by the terrorists, besides taking up new construction works for the benefit of the locals. These includes:-

- (a) Reconstruction of bridges.
- (b) Opening and adoption of schools
- (c) Holding medical camps.
- (d) Providing telephones.
- (e) Water supply schemes.
- (f) Community development centres.
- (g) Provision of electricity.
- (h) Sanitation schemes.
- (i) Vocational training centres.

EMPLOYMENT OF RASHTRIYA RIFLES IN COUNTER INSURGENCY OPERATIONS

3.17 The formations and units of the Rashtriya Rifles are fully determined to fight out the proxy war that has been unleashed in Jammu and Kashmir. The performance of the Ri-



Bridge being constructed by UN force at Pendembu, Sierra Leone on the way

fles in their assigned role has been very commendable. During the year, a large number of militants have been eliminated in the State, though many gallant officers and men of the Rashtriya Rifles had to make the supreme sacrifice, to achieve the goal. They have also played an excellent role in winning the hearts and minds of the local people and projecting the humane face of the Army by undertaking a number of goodwill missions. These missions include running of schools, community centres and "Sadbhavana" projects. There has been overwhelming response from the people to such programmes which have also generated tremendous goodwill for the Rashtriya Rifles.

TERRITORIAL ARMY AND COUNTER INSURGENCY OPERATIONS

- 3.18 The Territorial Army continues to have an authorized strength of about 41,000 all ranks comprising 25 Infantry Battalions and 26 Departmental Units. The posted strength of the Territorial Army is 34, 246 at present. The infantry units of the Territorial Army were inducted for Operation Rakshak in Jammu and Kashmir and for counter insurgency operations in the Eastern Sector on guard/escort duties during this year also. The Territorial Army has celebrated its 51st Raising Day on October 9, 2000. Recently, in the wake of earthquake in Gujarat, three Territorial Army Units of Oil Sector have successfully performed their assigned tasks.

EXCURSIONS.

- 3.19 The Army has conducted guided tours for young children from the States of Jammu and

Kashmir and Manipur which included visits to historical sites all over the country. Such excursions have not only provided the children of these States an opportunity to see new places but have also helped them understand the country and its people in a wider perspective. These trips have been widely welcomed on all sides.

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

- 3.20 Peacekeeping Operations under the aegis of the United Nations have grown in relevance and importance. India has been in the forefront of this endeavour of the United Nations and continues to make significant contribution to their efforts. By February 2000, India had emerged as the single largest troop contributing nation in deployment of troops in the missions of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKOs).
- 3.21 The professionalism and dedication of the Indian soldiers, and the quality and performance of the Indian units deployed on such missions, have established a benchmark in the field of peacekeeping. India continues to be the world's largest contributor of troops to the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations today. The following details would show the involvement of the Indian Army in Peacekeeping Operations in Lebanon, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kuwait and Ethiopia during the year 2000.
- (a) **Lebanon :**
One Indian Infantry Battalion Group, comprising approximately 620 personnel, continues to participate in the UN Mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

- (b) **Sierra Leone:**
- (i) India has contributed substantially to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) for establishment of peace. The overall Indian contribution to this mission was 3,100 troops. Consequent to our decision to de-induct our units from this mission, the last of our troops are scheduled to return to India by mid-February 2001.
- (ii) Operation KHUKRI was launched under the overall direction of Maj Gen VK Jetley, UYSM, Force Commander United Nations Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) on July 15, 2000, to rescue the UN troops taken hostage by the RUF. The meticulously planned operation demonstrated the operational skills of the Indian Army to both the warring factions in Sierra Leone, as also to the international community. The operation was highly acclaimed throughout the world for its professional planning and execution.
- (c) **Democratic Republic of Congo:**
Eleven military observers from India form part of the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- (d) **Kuwait:** India has been contributing troops to the UN Mission in Kuwait/Iraq (UNIKOM) since 1991. At present, seven military observers from India form part of UNIKOM.
- (e) **Ethiopia/Eritria:** Pending deployment of an infantry battalion group, a Force

Reserve Company and an Engineer Construction Company early next year, four staff officers already stand deployed in the Mission area.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION: RESTORATION OF HARIKE WETLAND

- 3.22 Harike Lake, spreading over an area of 41 sq. kms at the confluence of Satluj and Beas Rivers, is one of the largest fresh water riverine and lacustrine wetlands, recognised by the Ramsar Convention. The lake provides refuge to invaluable biological diversity including some endangered species. In February 2000, the wetland was dwindling with 70% of open water area heavily infested with deadly weed hyacinth, resulting in decline of resident and migratory birds. To overcome this ecological crisis, the Government of Punjab approached HQ Western Command to ameliorate the situation. The project which was entrusted to Golden Arrow Division of Vajra Corps and inaugurated on August 6, 2000, was executed in a systematic and scientific manner to ensure maximum output with minimum resources. Almost 70% of the hyacinth affected area, against the initial target of 12% which was agreed upon between the Government of Punjab and the Army at the commencement of the Project, was cleared.

BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH

- 3.23 Army formations have taken an active part in research on avian and land fauna. Studies on large mammals and black-necked cranes in the remote region of Ladakh have been successfully completed. The WWF India,

Wildlife Research Institute and the DRDO, besides the Army, were integrated into various zoological research programmes.

ECO-DEVELOPMENT OF FIELD FIRING RANGES

- 3.24 The field firing ranges are located in all kinds of eco-systems in various geographical habitats of India. Steps have been taken to regenerate the biotic life in the ranges in keeping with the biotic life available in the traditional local habitat. These projects are in the initial stages in most ranges, and positive results are expected as the programmes get underway.

RAISING ECOLOGICAL TASK FORCE FOR DELHI

- 3.25 An Eco Task Force, 32 Infantry Battalion (TA) (Rajput) was raised at New Delhi on October 9, 2000 which will be effective by April 2001. This would facilitate conservation and regeneration of the Delhi Ridge.

ADVENTURE AND SPORTS

- 3.26 A joint Indo-Bangladesh Army Rafting Expedition was planned from India to Bangladesh. The expedition from Mankha in Sikkim to Balashighat in Bangladesh, covered a distance of 371 Kms over the rivers Teesta and Jamuna from April 1 to 13, 2000. Army personnel from India and Bangladesh displayed exemplary courage, team work, camaraderie, and leadership qualities, which enabled them to successfully complete the expedition without any untoward incident. The expedition was a milestone in building

friendship between the two armies and the two countries.

ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

- 3.27 Army logistic support contingent comprising two officers, two JCOs and nine Other Ranks was provided to the Department of Ocean Development. While the contingent of the 19th Antarctic Expedition is presently stationed there, the contingent for the 20th Antarctic Expedition also arrived at Antarctica on January 12, 2001. The army has been involved in this venture from the 2nd Antarctic Expedition that was launched in 1982. Tasks undertaken by the contingent are construction, repair and maintenance of permanent stations, running of life support systems and overland transportation of men and material on the Continent.
- 3.28 India has so far launched 20 scientific expeditions to Antarctica since 1981. The Corps of Engineers has played a major role in India's exploration of this frozen continent. Their major contribution includes construction of the first station Dakshin Gangotri, construction of India's first permanent station, Maitri, and providing winter and summer station maintenance crews and opening up routes of maintenance.

MOUNTAINEERING EXPEDITION

- 3.29 An Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition has successfully scaled the highest peaks of the remote Rupshu region of Eastern Ladakh. The peaks of Chhamser Kangri (6622 meters) and Lungser Kangri (6660 meters), were conquered on July 1 and 5, 2000, respec-

tively. These peaks overlook the famous Tso-Morari lake, which is one of the biggest lakes of Ladakh. A unique feature of the expedition was environmental cleaning of the Tso-Morari lake, undertaken by the team members. The lake's shores were cleared of the litter left by previous expeditions. The litter was carefully collected and carted back to Leh.

SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

- 3.30 Maj. R.S. Brar of AOC represented India in Squash Championship in Hong Kong in July 2000.

ATHLETICS

- 3.31 Nb Sub Anil Kumar of Madras Engineering Group and Centre won gold medals in 100 m and 200 m race by breaking national records in both the events. He clocked 10.21 sec in 100m, breaking his own previous record of 10.33 sec, and clocked 20.73 sec in 200 m, breaking the earlier 40 year old national record of 21.06 sec held by Milkha Singh. He was also a member of the Indian contingent to the Sydney Olympics.

ROWING.

- 3.32 For the first time in the history of Indian Rowing, Nb Sub Kasem Khan and Nb Sub Inderpal Singh represented India in the Sydney Olympics in the Coxless Pair Event. Sub Jagjit Singh has been given Arjuna Award for the year 1999 for his outstanding achievements in national and international rowing.

OLYMPICS

- 3.33 The following Army personnel were selected to participate in the Sydney Olympics 2000:-

- (a) Nb Sub Gurcharan Singh SRC Boxing
- (b) Nb Sub Kasem Khan BEG (K) Rowing
- (c) Nb Sub Inderpal Singh BEG (R) Rowing

NATIONAL AWARDS

- 3.34 The President presented the following serving and retired Army personnel with the prestigious Dronacharya and Arjuna Awards at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on August 29, 2000:

- (a) Nb Sub Gurcharan Singh SRC Arjuna Award (Boxing)
- (b) Nb Jagjit Singh BEG (K) Arjuna Award (Rowing)
- (c) Lt Col (Retd) Haripal Kaushik SRC Arjuna Award (Hockey)
- (d) Hony Capt Hawa Singh (Posthumous) Guards Dronacharya Award (Boxing)

EDUCATION AND WELFARE

- 3.35 **Army Institute of Information Technology:** As part of the speedy modernisation measures, the Army is setting up an advanced IT Centre near Hyderabad, called the Army Institute of Information Technology (AIIT), to train officers in information management as

also information warfare. Its foundation stone was laid by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh on January 24, 2000.

3.41 **Army College of Education (ACE):**

The Army College of Education at Pachmarhi has started imparting training in B.Ed. to dependents of Army Personnel. The first course began in July 2000. The course is recognised by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE).

- 3.36 **Education Through NET:** The Army Welfare Education Society (AWES) has launched two distance coaching schemes through the internet in collaboration with E-Gurucool.com. The schemes are designed to prepare the students of AWES to run schools for competitive examinations. Coaching includes concepts, assignments, chat with experts and career counselling.

- 3.37 **National Equity Fund:** With the cooperation and assistance of Small Industries Development Bank of India, the Directorate General Resettlement has launched a new National Equity Fund (NEF) scheme to provide gainful self-employment opportunities to ex-servicemen, war widows, widows of ex-servicemen and disabled service personnel.

- 3.38 **Manufacture of Artificial Limbs:** An Army Base Workshop has undertaken manufacture of modern artificial limbs for paraplegic battle casualties. These have been designed by the DEBEL, Bangalore, using composite materials. These aids will ensure that the handicapped soldiers are not deprived of getting modern artificial limbs.