

National Security Blackwing

Strategic Report

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Driven by a resolute commitment to India's sovereignty, Akhilesh Pant has initiated the National Security Blackwing, a civilian-backed research and strategy platform focused on counter-terrorism, emerging warfare threats, AI integration in defense, and strategic coordination among Indian defense forces and intelligence services.

National Security Blackwing Report

1. National Threat Assessment: Statement by CDS Gen. Anil Chauhan

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen. Anil Chauhan, in a recent strategic assessment, highlighted a rising tripartite threat emerging from a potential China-Pakistan-Bangladesh axis. He warned of coordinated destabilisation attempts targeting India's internal harmony, border security, and regional influence. General Chauhan strongly advocated for rapid, technology-driven modernisation of India's armed forces and institutional strengthening to counter hybrid, cyber, and kinetic threats.

2. Strategic Threat Landscape

India faces multi-dimensional threats:

- Northern Front: PLA activities in Eastern Ladakh, infrastructure buildup near LAC.
- Western Front: Pakistan's proxy warfare and cross-border terrorism in Kashmir.
- Eastern Front: Concerns over radicalisation, ISI influence, and terror financing networks in Bangladesh.

These fronts could operate in sync to stretch Indian military bandwidth and cause internal disruption, particularly through information warfare and fifth-generation warfare.

3. India's Strategic Response Framework

- Tri-Forces Integration: Seamless interoperability among Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- Theatre Commands: Fast-track implementation to enable area-wise unified command.
- Indigenous Modernisation: Boost AI-powered surveillance, electronic warfare, drones, hypersonic and cyber capabilities.
- Civil-Military Fusion: Enhanced collaboration with private sector in defence tech innovation.

National Security Blackwing Report

- Grey Zone Warfare Readiness: Develop asymmetric capabilities in cyber operations, space-based ISR, and counter-disinformation measures.

4. Intelligence Synergy & Internal Security

India must develop robust coordination between the armed forces and national intelligence bodies:

- RAW: Enhance regional HUMINT and TECHINT capabilities across hostile neighbourhoods.
- IB & NIA: Improved anti-radicalisation operations and infiltration monitoring.
- NSCS & DIA: Facilitate fusion of tactical and strategic intelligence.
- State-Level ATS Units: Integrate with central databases for anti-terror operations.

5. Role of Private Sector in National Defence

- AI & Drones: Companies like DRDO-backed startups, private firms developing LLMs & ISR drones.
- Cybersecurity: Indian firms building indigenous SOCs, firewalls, and offensive tools.
- Aerospace: HAL, Mahindra, and Tata collaborating on fighter jets and next-gen UAVs.
- Defence Startups: Need policy push for procurement, trials, and export facilitation.

6. Conclusion and Strategic Recommendations

India stands at a critical juncture in its national security trajectory. The creation of theatre commands, bolstering of indigenous defence production, deeper intelligence fusion, and civil-military collaboration are pivotal to ensure national resilience.

Future Expansion Recommendations:

- Develop national-level simulation drills under 'Blackwing Red-Team' unit.

National Security Blackwing Report

- Include space militarization under ISRO-DRDO synergy.
- Strengthen defence diplomacy with QUAD & Indo-Pacific allies.
- Include visual strategic maps or infographics in future editions.
- Add implementation timelines: Short-term (tech upgrade), Mid-term (command restructuring), Long-term (strategic autonomy).