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"Integrated Theatre Commands Prospects & Challenges with reference to the Indian Armed Forces

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"Integrated Theatre Commands

**Prospects & Challenges
with reference to the
Indian Armed Forces**

Pramod Kumar

Outline

What

Terminologies

Concepts

Why

Need

History

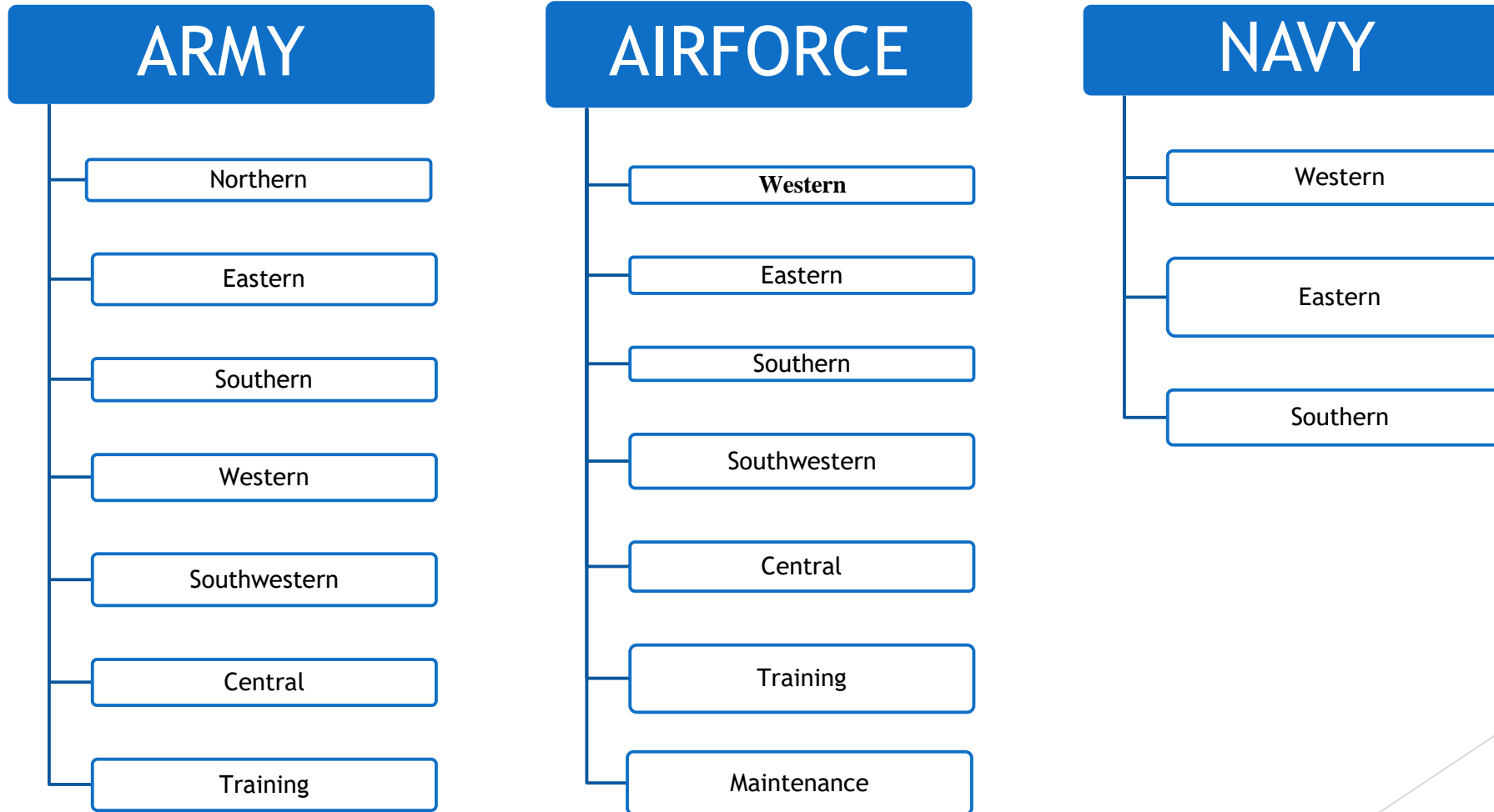
How

Proposed

Challenges

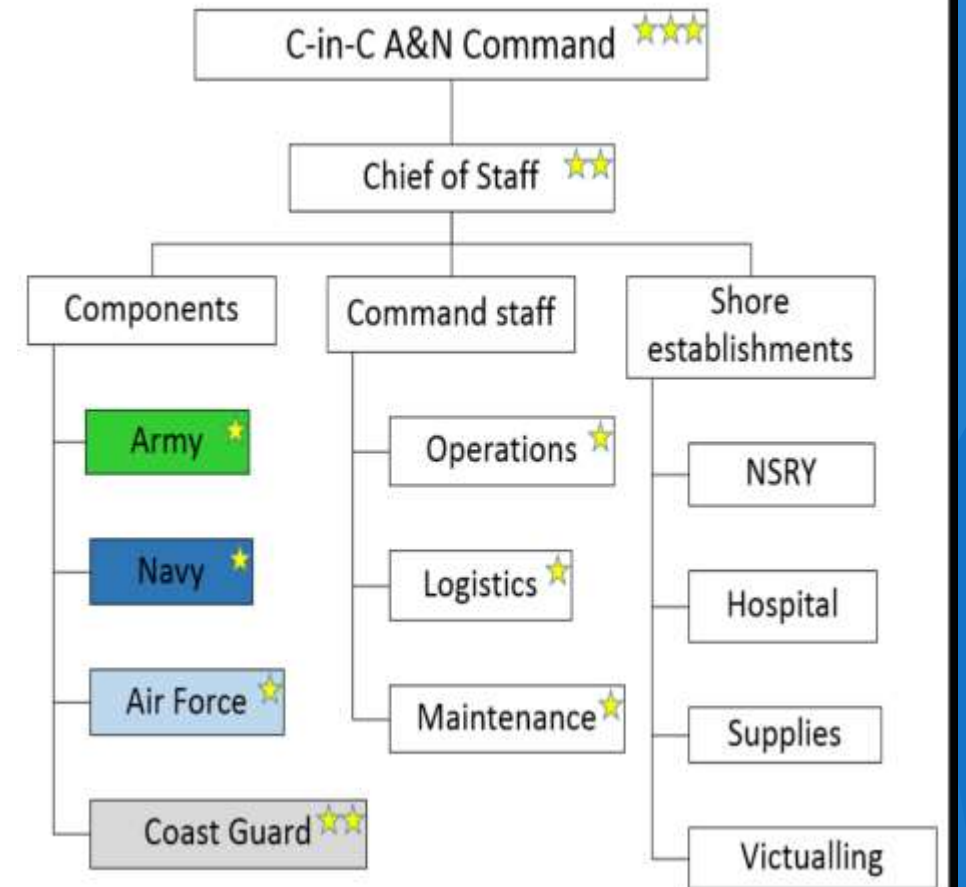
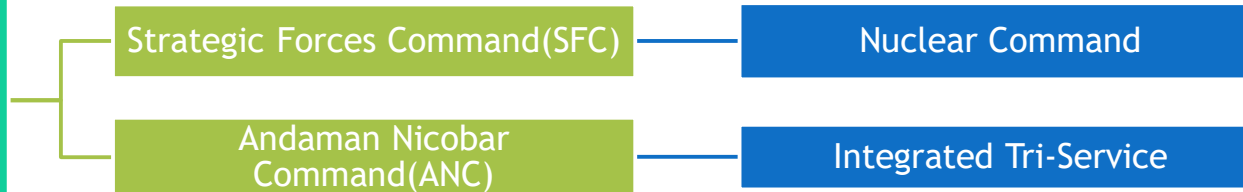
- ▶ **COMMANDS**- strategic divisions responsible for operational control, administration, and coordination within specific geographic or functional areas.
- ▶ **JOINTNESS**- operating together seamlessly while retaining individual service identity, organizational command, and control construct.
- ▶ **INTEGRATED**- organizational reconfiguration merging individual service identities to achieve a cohesive construct.
- ▶ **THEATRISATION**- unifies military branches under one command for efficient operations in a specific area.

Commands of Indian Armed Forces

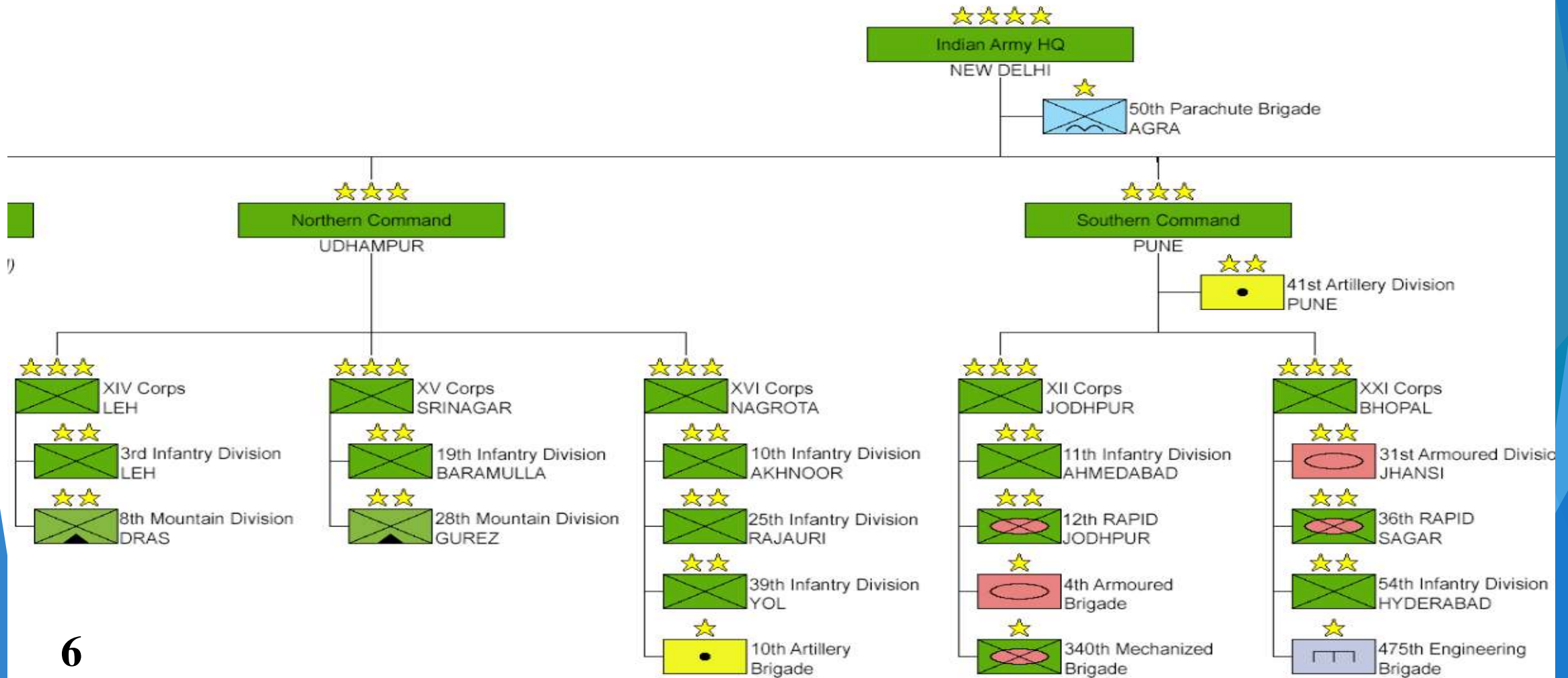


Tri-Service Commands

Tri-Service Commands



Organizational Structure of the Indian Army

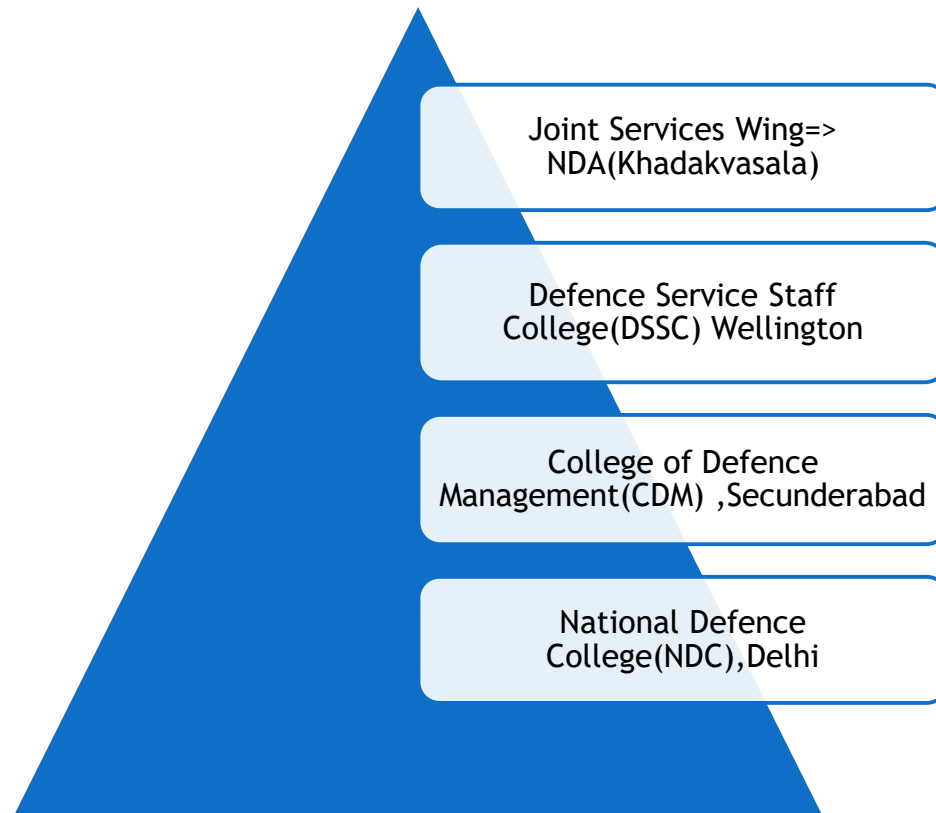


Need for ITC

- ▶ **Strengthened Deterrence:** twin threats of China in the North and Pakistan to its West
- ▶ **Holistic Threat Management:** multi-dimensional threats by combining land, sea, air, and cyber capabilities.
- ▶ **Rapid Response:** decision-making and deployment
- ▶ **Enhanced Coordination:** streamline operations across all three services
- ▶ **Cyber and Space Integration:** RMA, new warfare.
- ▶ **Optimized Decision-Making :** Reduce bureaucratic hurdles

HISTORICAL DIMENSIONS OF INDIAN HIGHER DEFENCE MANAGEMENT

2 military institutions were tailormade to promote jointness



The Early Indian Experience

China
conflict 1962

- No Airforce & Navy Involvement

Pak 1965

- 3 Wings together without a preconceived plan

1971

- First tri service involvement
- No integration only understanding

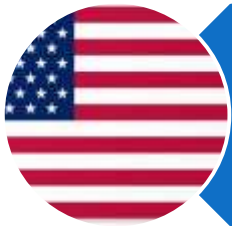
IPKF 1987

- No integration between chiefs, disaster

Kargil 1999

- Mismatches between higher military leaders
- No synergized plan.

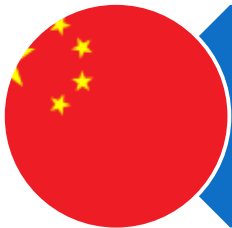
Foreign Experiences



A superpower with global presence



Indian Military Organizations have been derived



Emerging power, main threat to India's Security

U.S.A

- ▶ First joint operations in W.W-2
- ▶ General Eisenhower in Europe and General MacArthur in the pacific
- ▶ Goldwater Nichols Act of 1986 (Inter-operability, civilian inclusion)
- ▶ At present- 6 theatre commands+ 4 functional commands

U.K

- ▶ One of the first to recognize join-service planning.
- ▶ 1923- Chief of Staff Committee, 1959- CDS

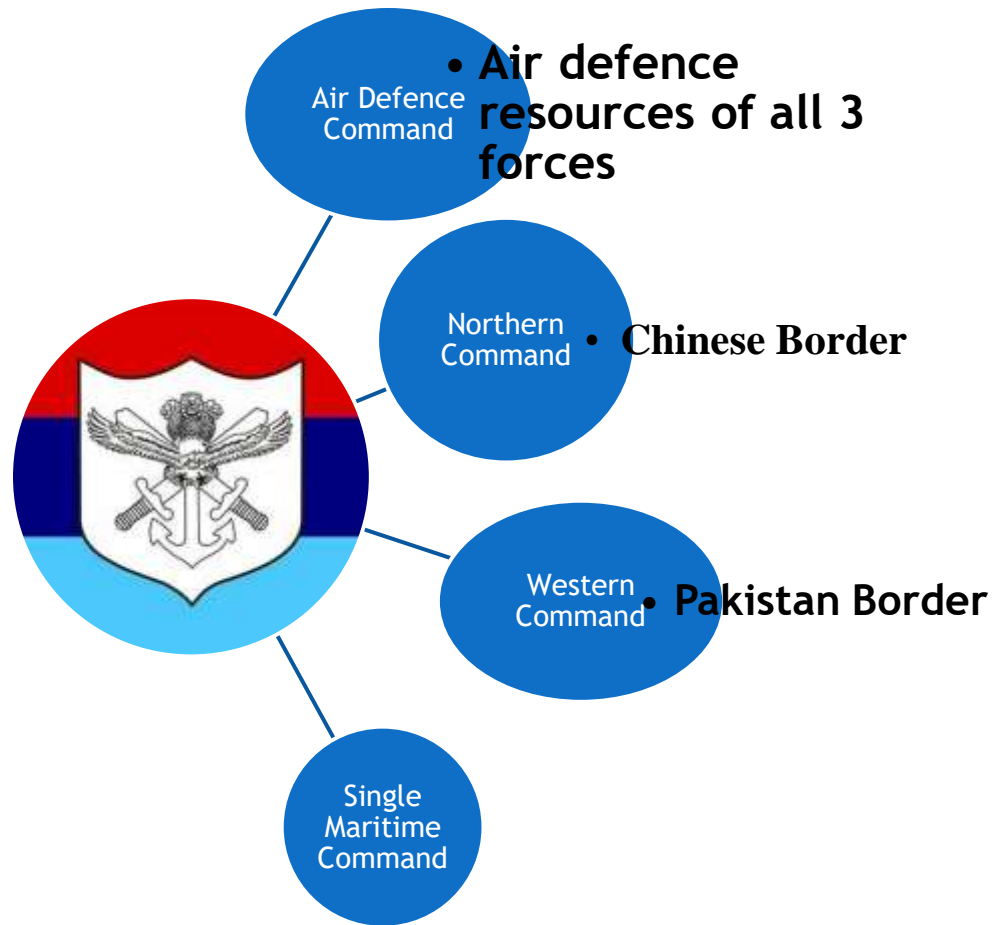
CHINA

- ▶ Latest example of joint service operability
- ▶ 2016- converted 7 military regions into 5 theatre commands

The Indian Context

- ▶ No simple traditional Copying
- ▶ Diverse terrains and threats
- ▶ 2 nuclear armed adversary
- ▶ Requirements and peculiarities of the Indian scenario must be taken into account.
- ▶ Our own Indigenous model should be developed.
- ▶ January 2020, the Chief of Defense Staff made. A separate Department of Military Affairs (DMA) was formed at the Ministry of Defence.

Proposed ITC Models



A PROLIFERATION OF COMMANDS

NOW



India has just one tri-service command and 17 single-service commands with little or no coordination among them. If all theatre commands report to the CDS, as the Lt Gen D.B. Shekatkar Committee proposed, then the three chiefs will have to oversee just the training and equipping of their respective services

IN FUTURE

Western Theatre Command

Integrating all army and air assets facing Pakistan. Subsuming Western, Southwestern and Southern Commands

Eastern Theatre Command

Integrating all army and air assets facing China

Southern Theatre Command

Integrating all army, naval and air assets of peninsular India

Additional commands

- Integrated air defence command pooling all air defence assets
- Strategic Forces Command for nuclear delivery systems
- Integrated Logistics Command for moving men and materiel

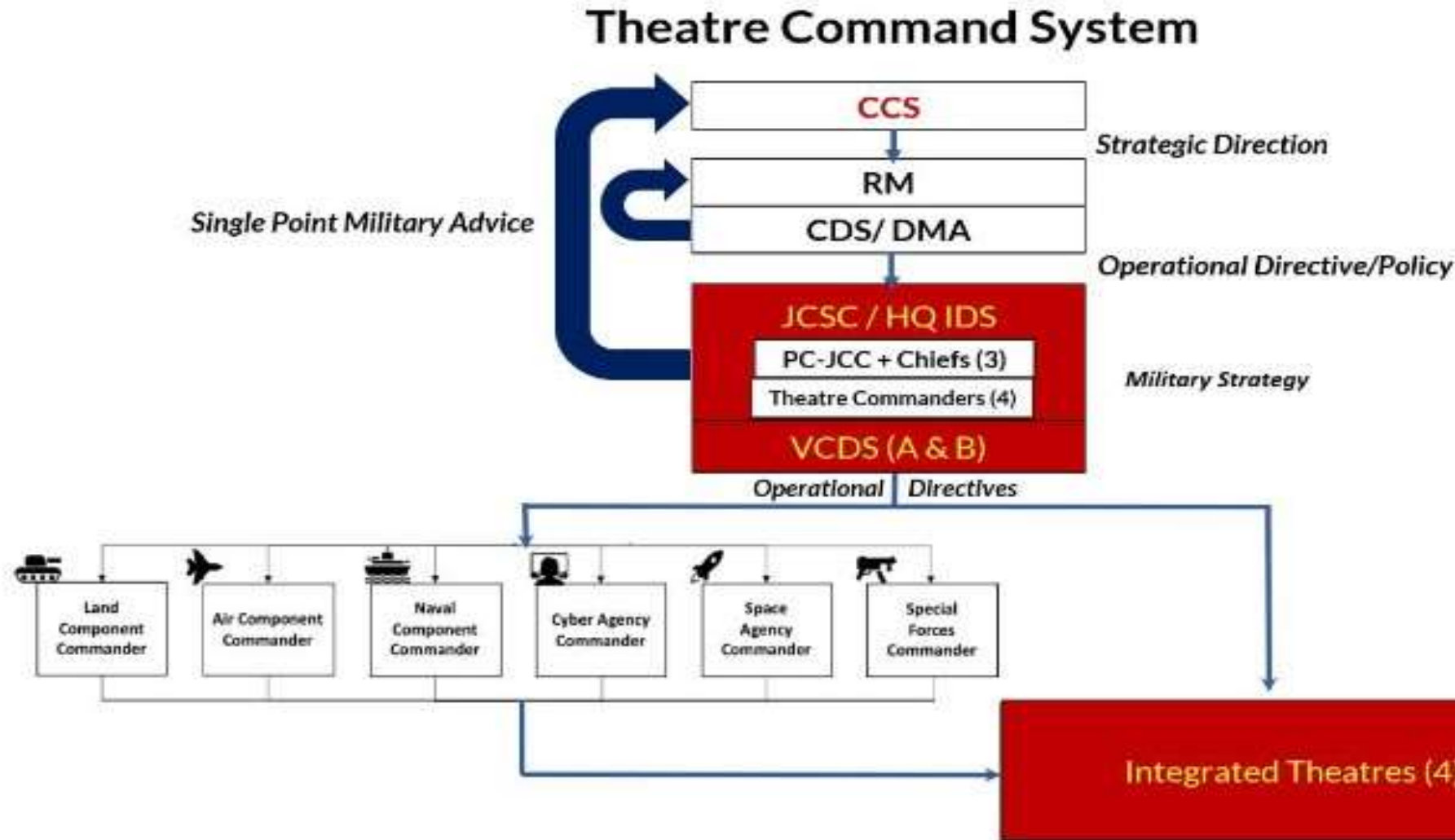
Cyber Command for offensive cyber operations

Special Forces Command integrating special operators from the three services

Space Command integrating all satellite assets

Source- Theaterisation of Indian Armed forces - KSG India

Proposed Theatre Command System





CRITICISMS

Indian Air force

- ▶ Air Chief Marshal Krishnaswamy- spending huge sums of money with doubtful returns
- ▶ Air Marshal Menon- give rise to a suitable military-industrial complex before engaging in wide scale reforms like U.S.A, China
- ▶ Grp Capt. Bewoor-theatre commands irrelevant in the Indian context. No expansion mindset like US.

Personal Proposed Model

- ▶ **Geographical based**
- ▶ **Unconventional Warfare based**
- ▶ **Paramilitary forces should be included.**
- ▶ **Focus on Civil Community Defence.**

Thank you

Questions & Healthy
Criticism is welcomed.