



# IAS PARLIAMENT

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## GIST OF IDSA

### DECEMBER 2019



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## IDSA DECEMBER 2019

### 1. MALWARE INFECTION KUDANKULAM NUCLEAR PLANT

#### *Why in news?*

A malware infection in the IT network of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) located in Tamil Nadu has been reported recently.

#### *What is the background of the malware infection in KKNPP?*

- Nuclear facilities have been a prime target of both espionage and sabotage operations in the past.
- The Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) enlists around 23 cyber incidents at nuclear facilities over the last three decades — owing to a multitude of threat actors and vectors such as software error, espionage, data theft, employee attempted sabotage, network intrusion, spear-phishing, and so forth..
- The cyber incident at KKNPP is going to be a new addition to this list, and it is worthwhile to look at the various motivational factors behind this incident.
- Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) – the parent body responsible for running the nuclear power plants in the country clarified that the infected personal computer was in use for administrative

purposes only, and the control systems of the plant and critical functions were unaffected by the breach.

#### *Was the breach a serious one?*

- The ICS in KKNPP are connected outside the unsecure networks.
- That notwithstanding, ICS are increasingly being connected to the corporate business systems, built with remote access capabilities, and are being designed using industry standard computers, operating systems and network protocols.
- ICS remain vulnerable to risks such as unauthorized changes to instructions, commands, or alarm thresholds.
- Therefore, stringent controls and security practices are put in place to reduce the risks to ICS and the control network of nuclear power plants from cyber-attacks.
- It is quite clear that the control systems at KKNPP are air gapped and the cyber-attack is not possible.
- However, air gapping alone cannot fully warrant security from cyber-attacks.
- Heightened defence make it hard for the adversary to access gapped systems, but certainly not an



impossible task.

- The true extent of the malware infection is hard to assess and it would never be disclosed.
- Prevention was successful to the extent that attackers were only able to access the administrative network, as per the official notifications.

### **How stronger is India's cyber infrastructure?**

- Information technology (IT) and operational technology (OT), for business needs and safety and control systems respectively, has become a new front for clandestine operations and has opened vast opportunities for both espionage and sabotage.
- In the OT space, Industrial Control Systems (ICS) remain the prime target as they control the core functions and physical processes in industrial plants.
- Their unavailability, incapacitation, degradation or destruction could have physical consequences.
- In the case of nuclear installations, at the extreme, it could be the release of radioactive material in the environment.
- In a nuclear power plant, ICS perform a host of monitoring, supervision and control functions, such as reactor protection systems, safety features actuation systems (emergency core

cooling), safe shutdown systems, emergency power supply and diesel generator control systems, reactor control systems and access control systems.

- ICS could also be termed as the nervous system of a nuclear power plant as they are not just the interface with physical parameters of the plant operations (monitoring the vital parameters such as neutron flux, temperature, pressure and flow), but they also monitor abnormalities through plant health diagnostic systems and adjust the physical processes through control and safety systems.
- Sensors and actuators are placed in every nook and corner of a nuclear power plant to ensure that temperatures, pressures and flow rates, etc. remain well within the design limits.
- To prevent untoward incidents, of the likes of core meltdown, reactor protection systems monitor operational variables and initiate a shut down if pre-defined thresholds are passed.
- ICS are, therefore, responsible for critical safety functions such as quick boron injection, containment spray, and high pressure safety injection.
- In a nuclear power plant, systems and



networks associated with safety, security, emergency preparedness, and their support systems are termed as Critical Systems.

- They are designed to withstand seismic and environmental events and built with heightened defence against cyber-attacks so that they can safely shut down the reactor and prevent any radioactive release in the environment.

#### ***What measures are needed?***

- The breach of a critical information infrastructure, particularly in the nuclear domain, cannot be taken lightly.
- It also affords an opportunity to review existing security practices and address the lacunae, where found.
- Technical and forensic attribution has to be coupled with a broader approach that takes into account the means, motives and methods of the perpetrators in order to have a better visibility and awareness of where the next attack might come from.
- This will help authorities to be better prepared to recognize such attacks and have measures in place to respond and shut them down.
- There have been calls to take punitive actions against the perpetrators, to serve as a warning and to deter others from undertaking such actions.

## **2. US BANS TIK-TOK**

### ***Why in news?***

United States Navy has banned TikTok from government-issued mobile devices.

### ***What is the popularity of Tik-Tok?***

- TikTok, was launched in 2017, It has since gained immense popularity.
- This app showcases self-made videos from anywhere and about everything, from comedy to lip-syncs and cook recipes to personal grooming tips that users create and share to gain likes and followers.
- In India alone, there has been a record download of about 466.8 million.
- TikTok overtook Facebook as the most downloaded social networking application globally in the first quarter of 2019.
- Even in terms of monthly active users and amount of time spent per day, Tiktok saw an exponential increase as compared to other social media applications.

### ***What are the reasons behind US's TikToK ban?***

- **National Interest** - A report by The Guardian revealed that TikTok tends to censor videos on issues that do not please China such as the Tiananmen Square incident, Hong Kong protests and Tibetan independence.



- This came to light through leaked documents outlining the site's moderation guidelines. This has led the United States (US) to launch a national security review of TikTok.
- US believes that China is advancing its policy of control and censorship abroad through the app that is against the American value system that promotes free speech and competing ideologies.
- It is important to note that if a company stores Indian data overseas then that data is subjected to that country's legislation, which may or may not be in line with India's interest.
- Furthermore, Indian lawmakers and citizens possess even less insight into data security practices of foreign-owned technology practices.
- **Security Threats** - United States considers the app to be "cybersecurity threat."
- The Navy would not describe in detail what dangers the app presents, but there are allegations about the US army using TikTok in their recruiting.
- This 15-second video-making application is enough to create a star (equivalent of a local celebrity) out of an individual.
- While all the social media platforms carry a cautionary note stating that they are not directed at children, TikTok's target audience encompasses preteens and adolescents.
- The desperation to get more people to like and follow the video has often led to youngsters attempting dangerous acts, causing serious injuries and even death in many cases.
- Over the last one year, at least 27 people are reported to have died while filming TikTok videos and another five for undertaking TikTok challenges.
- **Objectionable Content** - there have been several cases of objectionable content being uploaded which eventually led to banning of TikTok in several countries, including Indonesia, Bangladesh and India.
- In April 2019, the app was briefly banned in India on the ground that it was being used as a platform for spreading of obscene and illicit content, and with the primary target consumer being children and young adults.
- The court ruling had also questioned the impact on mental health that the app was having on the average

### **What are the concerns created by the app in Indian context?**

- **Social issues** - With more than 200 million active users, the app has found considerable popularity among the Indian youth.



consumer.

- **Data- insecurity** - Another concern regarding the app has been that of data collection and censorship.
- Currently, the TikTok data for Indian users is being stored in the third-party data centres located in the US and Singapore.
- There is no clear indication as to what level the data would still be accessible or what set of security measures would be in place for data protection.
- The dearth of information with regard to real-time data collection, storage, levels of access, server locations, and third party partnerships present a national security risk.
- **National Security Risk-** In India, the app has been blamed for aggravating religious and caste-based hatred and political differences in the country.
- Although TikTok has community guidelines against hateful or violent content, and a moderation team that flags and removes problematic videos, the extent of their implementation remains far from satisfactory.
- Furthermore, with the availability of a variety of user data including data with high commercial value (biometric and behavioural patterns), private companies tend to lobby against strict data protection laws.

### ***What measures needs to be taken by India?***

- Effective civil rights audit is required to ensure that misinformation or messages likely to incite hatred and violence are not proliferated through these applications.
- With increasing data thefts and applications often becoming tools for spying, there is a dire need for a data protection bill to come into play.
- India needs to set up a grievance redressal mechanism for all the social media applications available in the country.
- It is also vital that the privacy rules of apps cater to the sensitivities of its Indian users and have their data centres within the country.
- The draft Personal Data Protection Bill 2019 was recently introduced in the Lok Sabha and would now be examined by a joint select committee.
- The Bill emphasises the need for data localisation and the importance of treating data as a national property. Data is a strategic asset and should be handled with utmost security.
- It is important to ensure that customers are secure with respect to their data.
- Although the draft Bill may not be foolproof at this juncture, nevertheless, a beginning has been



made towards having a stronger framework for the protection and security of data.

### **3. CITIZENSHIP PROCEDURES IN INDIA'S NEIGHBORHOOD**

#### ***What is the issue?***

In the wake of intense debates on CAA 2019, comparisons of citizenship procedures in India's neighboring countries is crucial.

#### ***What are highlights of Citizenship Amendment Act?***

- In India, citizenship is regulated by the Citizenship Act, 1955, The Act specifies that citizenship may be acquired in India through five methods – by birth in India, by descent, through registration, by naturalisation (extended residence in India), and by incorporation of territory into India.
- An illegal migrant is prohibited from acquiring Indian citizenship. An illegal immigrant is a foreigner who either enters India illegally, i.e., without valid travel documents, like a visa and passport, or enters India legally, but stays beyond the time period permitted in their travel documents.
- An illegal migrant can be prosecuted in India, and deported or imprisoned.
- In September 2015 and July 2016, the central government exempted

certain groups of illegal migrants from being imprisoned or deported.

- These are illegal migrants who came into India from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, or Pakistan on or before December 31, 2014, and belong to the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, or Christian religious communities.
- The Bill proposes that the specified class of illegal migrants from the three countries will not be treated as illegal migrants, making them eligible for citizenship.
- The Act allows a person to apply for citizenship by naturalisation, if the person meets certain qualifications.
- One of the qualifications is that the person must have resided in India or been in central government service for the last 12 months and at least 11 years of the preceding 14 years.
- For the specified class of illegal migrants, the number of years of residency has been relaxed from 11 years to five years.

#### ***What is the procedure for obtaining citizenship in Pakistan?***

- Although an Islamic state, Pakistan does not have any religious test for citizenship.
- Its Citizenship Act, 1951 is similar to India's Citizenship Act in certain respects may be seen as more liberal.
- Section 6 lays down that any person



who migrated to Pakistan before January 1, 1952 is a citizen.

- Section 3 gives citizenship on the commencement of the Act (April 13, 1951) to anyone who, or any of whose parents or grandparents, was born in the territories included in Pakistan on March 31, 1973.
- Pakistan grants citizenship to any person who migrated there before April 13, 1951 from any territory in the subcontinent with the intention of permanently residing there.
- Section 5 of the Pakistan Act talks of citizenship by descent if one of the parents was a Pakistani citizen at the time of the person's birth
- J&K migrants to Pakistan are deemed to be Pakistan citizens until Kashmir's relationship with Pakistan is finally determined.

#### ***What is the procedure for obtaining citizenship in Bangladesh?***

- Article 6 of the Constitution says citizenship in Bangladesh shall be regulated by law and people shall be known as "Bengalees as a nation".
- In December 1972, a Presidential Order, Bangladesh Citizenship (Temporary Provisions), conferred citizenship.
- It covers from March 26, 1971 on anyone who, or whose father or grandfather, was born in the

territories then comprising Bangladesh.

- It also applies to a permanent resident on March 25, 1971 and continued to be a resident of Bangladesh.
- Any person who, for studies or employment, was in territories within a country at war or engaged in military operation (Pakistan), and was being prevented from returning to Bangladesh, would also be a citizen.
- The Bangladesh government, like Pakistan, may grant citizenship to a person who is citizen of Europe, North America or Australia or any other state, But, knowledge of Bangla would be necessary.
- Foreign women married to Bangla men can also get citizenship after 2 years' residence.
- Irrespective of place of birth, if one's parents are Bangladeshi, citizenship would be given.
- In 2017, it was provided that anyone who invests \$150,000 can get citizenship.

#### ***What is the procedure for obtaining citizenship in Afghanistan?***

- Article 8 of the 1923 Constitution gave citizenship to all residents without religious discrimination.
- The main purpose was not citizenship but issuance of tazkira, or national identity cards.



- Any foreigner who had resided for five years in Afghanistan could get Afghan citizenship.
- Under Article 28, an Afghan woman retains her citizenship in spite of marrying a foreigner.
- Under Article 9(2), a child born in Afghanistan or outside to Afghan parents is a citizen.
- Even a child born in Afghanistan to foreigners can get citizenship on attaining age 18, if he decides to stay there, and if, within six more months, he does not apply for the same citizenship as his parents.
- Article 12 says that if a child is born in Afghanistan and parents' documents show that evidence of their citizenship is not available, the child will be considered an Afghan.
- Non-Afghan women married to Afghan men were given citizenship.
- Article 4 of the current Constitution declares that the Afghanistan nation is composed of all individuals who possess Afghan citizenship and the word Afghan shall apply to every citizen.
- In a bold and categorical statement, it says no individual shall be deprived of citizenship.
- Article 28 mentions it as a Fundamental Right and states no Afghan citizen shall be deprived of

citizenship or sentenced to domestic or foreign exile.

- Like Pakistan and Bangladesh, Afghanistan neither confers nor denies citizenship on the basis of religion.

### ***What makes Indian citizenship procedures regressive?***

- In India, a child born after December 31, 2003 will be a citizen of India only if both parents are Indian citizens.
- The Act violates Article 14 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees equality to people (Indians and foreigners).
- Categorizing people along religious lines violates Article 14 of the constitution.
- Classifying people based on religion is against the idea of secularism unless the government wants to turn the country into a radical Hindu state.
- The CAA ends up violating the Assam Accord of 1985 by granting citizenship to illegal immigrants (on the basis of religion) who came here before December 31, 2014.
- The CAA clearly violates the Assam Accord, which says that illegal immigrants from Bangladesh (those who came after March 25, 1971) will be deported.
- The CAA will also nullify the impact of the National Register of Citizen (NRC)



in the state of Assam, if people, who were left out of the final list, are given citizenship through it.

- In recent times, the Election Commission and the Assam Border Police have labelled many as illegal immigrants (many of them happen to be Hindus).
- The government has proposed to drop all of the charges against the Hindus, which means only Muslims will be deemed as 'foreigners' by the law.
- More than 2.5 million Lankan Tamils have been excluded from the list. Why isn't the government paying attention.
- They ought to be included in the CAA if it is a genuine attempt to grant citizenship to the Hindus.

#### **4. CASE OF PERVEZ MUSHARRAF**

##### **Why in news?**

A special court in Islamabad sentenced former military ruler General Pervez Musharraf to death for high treason.

##### **What is Pervez Musharraf case?**

- Musharraf resigned the presidency in 2008, unpopular and facing impeachment charges.
- He went into self-imposed exile until August 14, 2010, when he formed his own political party, the All Pakistan Muslim League.
- The name of the party was taken from the original All Pakistan Muslim League, which struggled in an

undivided India for a separate Muslim country.

- After the formation of his own All Pakistan Muslim League, Musharraf arrived in Pakistan to contest the general elections in 2013.
- But instead of continuing his political activities, he had to live under tight security in Pakistan.
- The courts barred him from standing in the elections, and then he became embroiled in several legal cases, including one over the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.
- Meanwhile, Musharraf's opponent, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, won the general elections in 2013.
- Musharraf had toppled Sharif's then-government in a military coup in 1999.
- Shortly after winning election once again in 2013, Sharif initiated a treason trial against Musharraf.
- Facing increasing pressure from the establishment, Sharif allowed Musharraf to leave the country. Since then, the former general has not returned to Pakistan.
- Recently he was charged with treason for having imposed an emergency in November 2007 and arresting several judges, and was indicted in March 2014.



- As the trial negotiated several twists and turns and passed through delays, Musharraf left Pakistan in March 2016 for treatment in Dubai.
  - In its recent judgment, the special court directed law enforcement to apprehend Musharraf, who is currently receiving medical treatment in Dubai, to ensure the death sentence is carried out.
  - **How Musharraf's rule led to Pakistan's woes?**
  - In Pakistan, Musharraf is generally the most loathed leader after former dictator General Zia-ul-Haq (1977-88), who pushed Pakistan into backwardness by introducing religious fundamentalism in the country.
  - Zia helped the Mujahideen fight Soviet troops in Afghanistan with the financial support of the United States and Saudi Arabia,
  - Decades later, Musharraf reluctantly joined the United States in 2001 for its war against the Taliban in Afghanistan, a conflict that still continues today.
  - Due to Musharraf's short-sighted policies, Pakistan was pushed into the Afghan quagmire.
  - The country has witnessed attack after attack, in which tens of thousands of Pakistanis have reportedly lost their lives.
  - Today, religious extremism is the biggest threat to Pakistan's security.
  - In Balochistan, Musharraf ordered a fifth military operation, which killed Balochistan's former chief minister and governor Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti in 2006, That, in turn, fueled the fifth Baloch insurgency in Balochistan.
  - The killing of Akbar Bugti created deep mistrust between Balochs and the state of Pakistan, and they are still at loggerheads with each other.
  - The conflict between the Balochs and state is still ongoing in Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province.
- What is the response for the verdict within the country?***
- The common public has welcomed the verdict of the special court stating that it is a valid one and that no one is above the law in the "land of the pure".
  - Few journalist as also welcomed the judgement stating that this the first time a Military general has awarded death sentence and that seems to be the right step toward good democracy.
  - But the army reacted angrily to Musharraf's verdict, saying in a statement that someone who served for over 40 years and fought wars in the defense of the country "can surely never be a traitor."



- The verdict has “been received with lot of pain and anguish by rank and file of Pakistan armed forces

#### ***What lies ahead in this case?***

- Article 6 of Pakistan constitution says: “Any person who abrogates or subverts or suspends or hold in abeyance, the Constitution by use of force or show force or by any other unconstitutional means shall be guilty of high treason.”
- The punishment for high treason, as per Pakistan’s High Treason (Punishment) Act, 1973, is death or life imprisonment.
- An appeal against the verdict will lie in Pakistan’s Supreme Court.
- Even if the top court upholds the special court’s verdict, the country’s President can pardon him under Article 45 of the constitution: “The President shall have power to grant pardon, reprieve and respite, and to remit, suspend or commute any sentence passed by any court, tribunal or other authority.”
- Pakistan’s army has already declared that Musharraf “can surely never be a traitor”, and that the “armed forces expect that justice will be dispensed in line with the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan”.
- In any case, it is not expected that Musharraf, who is in self-imposed

exile in Dubai, will return to Pakistan to carry the case through to the end.

### **5. KEY FUNCTIONS OF CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF**

#### ***Why in news?***

The current Chief of Army Staff Bipin Rawat has appointed as India’s first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

#### ***What is the post of CDS mean?***

- After Kargil war 1999, various authorities recommended the need for creating a post for a single command center in matters of warfare and nuclear weaponry.
- Union government in took a historic decision in creating the post of Chief of defence Staff ( CDS) after considering two primary reports
  1. Kargil Review Committee, Report of Task Force on National Security (Naresh Chandra Committee Report)
  2. Committee of Experts on Enhancing Capability and Rebalancing Defence Expenditure (General Shekatkar Committee Report)
- These reports chalked out a strategy for higher defence management.
- The CDS will head the Department of Military Affairs (DMA).
- The officer to be appointed as chief of defence staff will be a four-star general, as Secretary, DM, with salary and perquisites equivalent to that of a service chief.



- The CDS will act as the principal military adviser to the defence minister on all tri-services matters.

### ***What are the functions of CDS?***

- The CDS is not a ministerial position, He will be empowered under the Allocation of Business Rules to run his department.
- The highest form of supervisory mandate that can be delegated to him is at the level of a secretary.
- The defence secretary and the three chiefs occupy important positions in the government's pantheon.
- This will not change when a fourth officer joins as CDS at the four-star level.
- Both the defence secretary and the CDS will report to the raksha mantri.
- If required, the raksha mantri could ask any or all of the departments to give their comments on matters that require a coordinated position to emerge from the MoD.
- The CDS will also be a member of the Defence Planning Committee and the Defence Acquisition Council, besides functioning as the military adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority.
- He would ensure optimal utilization of infrastructure, facilitate restructuring of military commands including establishment of joint/theatre commands, promote indigenization

and work on "out of area contingencies".

- Preparation of strategy papers and rationalization and reforms in the functioning of the armed forces would be part of his mandate.
- The CDS will now have a tenured appointment up to the age of 65 years.
- The CDS, who will also be the permanent chairperson of COSC, will not exercise any operational command, including over the three service chiefs.
- The three service chiefs will continue to retain full command over their services, and give independent military advice to the raksha mantri on matters concerning their respective services.
- The CDS, in turn, will do what no service chief can do, that is, reconcile the viewpoints of all the three services.
- This feature will improve his ability to provide impartial advice since his service loyalties will no longer colour his advice.
- The defence secretary will continue to deal with defence policy, strategy and diplomacy.
- He will also be responsible for capital acquisitions, defence land, defence accounts, cantonments, border roads,



coast guard and a host of other important areas.

- The CDS will be dual-hatted. As the permanent chairperson of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), the CDS will be expected to promote jointness and integration and be the principal military adviser to the raksha mantri.

### ***What will be the significant outcomes of this appointment?***

- The decision to appoint a CDS is a huge step towards achieving seamless coordination and greater effectiveness in higher defence management structures by creating an enabling architecture that permits fuller expression on the part of our professional armed forces.
- This is the first time in the history of independent India that a uniformed individual will head a government department.
- The Department of Military Affairs will not only synchronize the expertise and endeavors of the three services but also create harmony and integration between the military and civilian experts.
- The key point is that the new CDS will be the head of a newly-minted Department of Military Affairs within the existing architecture of the Ministry of Defence, which already has four departments — Department of Defence, Department of Defence

Production, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare and the DRDO.

- All matters that are purely military affairs involving the army, navy and the air force, including the territorial army, especially jointness in tri-service matters pertaining to training, transport, staffing, logistics, communications, repairs and maintenance and even jointness in procurement, would henceforth be handled by the CDS.

## **6. UNVEILING INTEGRATED BATTLE GROUPS**

### ***Why in news?***

Integrated Battle Groups styled exercise has carried out by the Mountain Strike Corps in Arunachal Pradesh.

### ***What is Integrated Battle Groups?***

- Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat has initiated four major studies to undertake overall transformation of the force.
  1. These include restructuring of Army Headquarters.
  2. Force restructuring which includes creation of Integrated Battle Groups (IBG).
  3. The cadre review of officers.
  4. Review of the terms and conditions of Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks.
- IBGs are self-contained, agile, brigade-sized fighting units, which



were proposed in one of four studies.

- They are to replace the current Cold Start Doctrine, which called for defensive corps to carry out shallow cross-border thrusts within 72 hours for limited objectives such as the capture of territory.
- The IBGs are to perform both offensive roles, involving cross-border operations, and defensive roles to withstand an enemy attack.
- A major general will head each IBG. The integrated units for the border will be all encompassing, with artillery, armored, combat engineers and signal units.
- Resources for the IBGs would depend on 'Threat, Terrain and Task', and should be able to mobilize in 12 to 48 hours based on where they are located.
- The composition of every IBG would differ based on the terrain where it is located — an IBG operating in a desert needs to be constituted differently from one operating in the mountains.

#### **What is the significance of IBG?**

- After the terrorist attack on the Parliament, the Indian military undertook massive mobilization but the Army's formations, which were deep inside, took weeks to mobilize losing the element of surprise.

- Following this, the Army formulated a proactive doctrine known as 'Cold Start' to launch swift offensive but its existence was consistently denied in the past.
- Its existence was acknowledged for the first time by Gen Rawat in January 2017.
- Cold Start is a military doctrine that was developed by the Indian Armed Forces for use in a possible war with Pakistan.
- It involves the various branches of India's military conducting offensive operations as part of unified battlegroups.
- The doctrine is intended to allow India's conventional forces to perform holding attacks to prevent a nuclear retaliation from Pakistan in case of a conflict.
- The first Integrated Battle Group is expected to be structured soon, which will replace exiting Cold start doctrine.
- The Indian Army's Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs), meant to ensure faster punitive and defensive operations.
- IBGs are brigade-sized, agile, self-sufficient combat formations, which can swiftly launch strikes against adversary in case of hostilities.
- While a command is the largest static formation of the Army spread across a defined geography, a corps is the



largest mobile formation. Typically each corps has three divisions and each division has three brigades.

- The idea is to reorganise them into IBGs which are brigade-sized units but have all the essential elements like infantry, armoured, artillery and air defence embedded together based on the three Ts.
- An IBG operating in a desert needs to be constituted differently from an IBG operating in the mountains, the source explained.
- The IBGs will also be defensive and offensive. While the offensive IBGs would quickly mobilise and make thrust into enemy territory for strikes, defensive IBGs would hold ground at vulnerable points or where enemy action is expected.
- The composition of the IBGs would also depend on this.
- The aim is holistic integration to enhance the operational and functional efficiency, optimize budget expenditure, facilitate force modernization and address aspirations.
- The overall transformation will also see a reduction in the size of the 1.3 million Army.

### What are Integrated Battle Groups?

- IBGs are brigade – sized, agile, self-sufficient combat formations

- Each of them is tailor-made based on Threat, Terrain & Task. Resources will be allotted based on the three T's

- They will be able to

- mobilise within 12 – 48 hrs based on the location

- Concept of IBG pilot-tested by 9 Corps. They are reorganising based on the feedback and will be restructured by August end

- Army will approach Centre for sanction after that



### What is present status of IBG in India?

- The concept of IBGs has also been test-bedded at the 9 Corps at the western border with Pakistan, and the Army is fine-tuning them based on ground feedback.
- While the Eastern Command is yet to file a report on the IBG experiment in the eastern theatre, sources said the experiment on the western front has brought to light critical gaps in the operations of the IBGs.
- “For example, the resources given to IBG for signals were found to be insufficient, particularly because of the mountainous terrains,” a second Army source said.
- The signals corps of the Indian Army is responsible for all military communications.
- Then with the animal transport (battalions), the need was felt for better tracks and more load-carrying



capacity of mules.

- The new concept of Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) which the Army plans to create as part of overall force transformation is close to implementation.

## 7. INDIA-ALGERIA RELATIONS

### Why in news?

Algeria's army Chief Lieutenant General Ahmed Gaid Salah passed away recently.

### How strategic is Algeria?

- Algeria is a country in the Maghreb region of North Africa, the capital and most populous city is Algiers, located in the far north of the country on the Mediterranean coast.
- Algeria is the tenth-largest country in the world and the largest in the Arab world and Africa.
- Algeria is bordered to the northeast by Tunisia, to the east by Libya, to the west by Morocco, to the southwest by the Western Saharan territory, Mauritania, and Mali, to the southeast by Niger, and to the north by the Mediterranean Sea.
- It is a semi-presidential republic consisting of 48 provinces and 1,541 communes (counties).
- Algeria is a regional and middle power. It has the highest human development index of all non-island African countries and one of the

largest economies on the continent, based largely on energy exports.

- Algeria has the 16th largest oil reserves in the world and the second largest in Africa, while it has the ninth largest reserves of natural gas.
- Algeria has one of the largest militaries in Africa and the largest defence budget.
- It is a member of the African Union, the Arab League, OPEC, the United Nations, and the Arab Maghreb Union, of which it is a founding member.



### What is the exiting ties between India and Algeria?

- Algeria-India relations refers to the growing bilateral ties between Algeria and India.
- **Diplomatic ties** - Both nations are part of the Non-Aligned Movement, as



a member of the African Union.

- Algeria supports India's candidacy for a permanent seat in a reformed Security Council.
- **Economic ties** - Recently, India and Algeria have taken steps to increase collaboration in the oil sector.
- The Indian car company Maruti has a significant market in Algeria, with it being its third largest export market and exporting nearly 17,247 cars in the year 2011-12.
- **Bilateral cooperation and assistance** - India provided Algeria with US\$1 million as humanitarian aid for "the victims of the earthquake which struck Algeria in May 2003.
- Medicines worth half a million US dollars were handed over in April 2004 and the balance in the form of construction steel for the houses for the victims was handed over in October 2006."
- **Technical Assistance** - The Indian Space Research Organization, the Indian Government's main space agency managing the Indian Space Programme, launched the Algerian Satellite Alsat 2A into orbit in July 2010.

#### **Who was General Ahmed Gaid Salah?**

- In the 1990s, Algeria was gripped by a bloody civil war between the military establishment and Islamist groups.
- It was during the conflict, in 1994, that Salah was appointed as the head of Algeria's land forces.
- In 2004, he was made army chief by former president Bouteflika.
- At the helm of the military, Salah helped Bouteflika tighten his grip over the country.
- Earlier this year, after mass protests against corruption and rising food prices, Salah pushed for Bouteflika's resignation, and the latter had to quit in April.
- Since then, Salah emerged as the most powerful figure in Algeria.
- Even as Bouteflika was deposed, protests in the country continued to surge, as they saw the same power structure continue.
- During this period, Salah became the principal figure in "Le Pouvoir" or "The Power", a French term that Algerians use to refer to the ruling elite.
- Salah oversaw the military's strategy in dealing with the protests.
- Earlier in December, Algeria conducted national elections that Salah had pushed for, but protesters who demanded a change in the country's political structure first rejected the exercise.
- Many also asked for Salah's resignation.



### **What happens now in Algeria?**

- The Algerian protests, which have raged for almost the entire year despite being without any formal leaders, continue to demand a major change in the country's leadership from military to civilian rule.
- Abdelmadjid Tebboune, who became President after the December 12 elections, has named General Said Chengriha, who belongs to the same generation of powerful generals as Salah, as the new acting chief of staff.
- Protesters are now contemplating whether to accept President Tebboune's offer of dialogue, who is seen as a puppet of the military leadership.

## **8. KHASHOGGI'S KILLING**

### **Why in news?**

- Five people have been sentenced to death in connection with the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

### **Who is Jamal Khashoggi?**

- Jamal Khashoggi is a Saudi dissident, journalist for The Washington Post, and former general manager and editor-in-chief of the Al-Arab News Channel.
- He was murdered on 2 October 2018 at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, and was perpetrated by agents of the Saudi government.

- He was brutally assassinated by 15 members of the Saudi hit team, closely connected to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.
- After repeatedly shifting its account of what happened to Khashoggi in the days following the killing, the Saudi government admitted that Khashoggi had been killed in a premeditated murder, but denied that the killing took place on the orders of bin Salman.
- The murder prompted intense global scrutiny and criticism of the Saudi government.

### **What is the course of the case?**

- The Saudi government engaged in an extensive effort to cover-up the killing, including destroying evidence
- Turkish officials released an audio recording of Khashoggi's killing that they alleged contained evidence that Khashoggi had been assassinated on the orders of Mohammed bin Salman.
- By November 2018, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, based on multiple sources of intelligence, had concluded that bin Salman had ordered Khashoggi's assassination.
- In the same month, the United States sanctioned 17 Saudi individuals under the Magnitsky Act over the Khashoggi murder, including former bin Salman advisor Saud Al-Qahtani,



but did not sanction bin Salman himself.

- U.S. President Donald Trump disputed the CIA assessment, expressed support for bin Salman, and stated that the investigation into Khashoggi's death had to continue.
- In January 2019, the Saudi government began trials against 11 Saudis accused of involvement in Khashoggi's murder.
- In December 2019, following proceedings shrouded in secrecy, a Saudi court acquitted three defendants; sentenced five defendants to death; and sentenced three defendants to prison terms.

#### ***What is the response of the verdict?***

- The acquitted defendants, Saud al-Qahtani and Ahmed al-Asiri, were high-level Saudi security officials, while the five men sentenced to death were "essentially foot soldiers in the killing."
- Saudi prosecutors rejected the findings of the UN investigation and asserted that the killing "was not premeditated" but was instead "taken at the spur of the moment."
- Global legislators termed Saudi verdict was a "mockery" because "the masterminds not only walk free, they have barely been touched by the investigation and the trial."

- Human rights group Amnesty International called the verdict a "whitewash" and the Turkish government said that the trials had fallen far short of "justice being served and accountability."

#### ***What lies ahead?***

- The complete lack of transparency and the Saudi government's refusal to cooperate with independent investigators suggests that this was merely a sham trial.
- Those ultimately responsible, at the highest level of the Saudi government, continue to escape responsibility for the brutal murder of Jamal Khashoggi.
- The kingdom is handling of the killing, "from complete denial to hanging the murder on lower-level operatives in a trial that lacked transparency, demonstrates the need for an independent criminal inquiry."