



## Recent Reforms in Defence Sector

---

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/recent-reforms-in-defence-sector

### Why in News

---

Recently, the Defence Minister released an E-booklet titled '**20 Reforms in 2020**' highlighting the **major reforms undertaken by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in 2020**.

### Key Points

---

- **Chief of Defence Staff & Department of Military Affairs:**
  - The **appointment of India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** and creation of the **Department of Military Affairs (DMA)** were among the major decisions taken by the Government.

**General Bipin Rawat** was appointed as the **first CDS** who also fulfilled the responsibilities of Secretary, DMA.
  - The post of CDS was created to **increase efficiency & coordination among the Armed Forces and reduce duplication**, while DMA was established to ensure improved civil-military integration.
- **Self-Reliance in Defence:**
  - To promote '**Make in India**' in the defence sector, a list of **101 defence items for which there would be an embargo on the import was notified in August 2020**, while **Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020** was unveiled in **September 2020**.
  - There was a **10% budget increase in 2020-21** over the previous year.
- **Increased Defence Exports:**
  - The increased partnership with the private sector has led to a substantial rise in defence exports.
  - The value of total defence **exports rose from Rs 1,941 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 9,116 crore in 2019-20**. Also, **for the first time, India figured in the list of defence equipment exporting nations**, as the exports expanded to more than 84 countries.

- **Defence Acquisitions:**
  - First five **Rafale fighter aircraft** arrived in India in July 2020 and several more since then, adding firepower to the arsenal of the Indian Air Force.
- **Reforming Defence R&D:**
  - To promote innovation by young minds, five Young Scientists Laboratories of **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** were launched in 2020.
  - DRDO has joined hands with the private sector in design & development and identified 108 Systems & Subsystems for the industry to design, develop and manufacture.
- **Digital Transformation:**
  - **Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA)** started online Pre-Delivery inspection in May 2020 to address security threats.
  - The **Armed Forces Tribunal** began digital hearing for the first time in August 2020.
- **Strengthening Border Infrastructure:**
  - Reforms of processes and workflows within **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** enabled it to achieve targets ahead of schedule, in some instances.
  - World's longest **Atal tunnel** above 10,000 feet, at Rohtang on the Leh-Manali Highway was inaugurated.
- **Participation of Women in Armed Forces:**
  - Ten streams of Indian Army were opened for giving **Permanent Commission to Short Service Commission (SSC) Women officers.**
  - All **Sainik Schools** were thrown open for girl students from academic session 2020-21.
- **Reforms in National Cadet Corps :**
  - Expanding the reach of the **National Cadet Corps (NCC)** to remote locations was a major announcement.
  - It was decided to give preference to NCC cadets in employment in **Central Armed Police Forces** from May 2020.
- **Aid to Civil Administration during Covid-19:**
  - The Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces have mobilised resources to aid the civil administration in the fight against **Covid-19.**
  - **DRDO** has set up several hospitals to treat Covid patients across the states, passed on technology expertise to the private sector for mass production of covid related medicines and equipment.

- **Help beyond Boundaries:**

- The Armed Forces extended a helping hand to the countries in distress. Indian Navy mounted eight relief missions during 2020-21.
- Besides **evacuating stranded Indians from Iran, Sri Lanka and Maldives** under **Vande Bharat Mission**, Indian Naval ships provided **Covid-19 medical relief** to five countries.
- **INS Airavat** provided 270 MT food aid to Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea struck by natural calamities.
- The **Indian Coast Guard** led the rescue operation to save the Sri Lanka coast from its biggest oil spill.

**Source:PIB**