



Indian Army Adapts Tactics to Counter Two-Front Threats

[Source: TOI](#)

The **Indian Army** is undergoing **structural and technological upgrades** to become a **future-ready force** amid rising threats from **China and Pakistan**, especially [post- Operation Sindoor](#).

- It aims to create self-contained integrated battle groups (IBGs) of soldiers.

Key Structural & Technical Upgrades

- **Rudra All-Arms Brigades:** Single-arm brigades are being restructured into [integrated combat units](#) combining **infantry, tanks, artillery, engineers, [Unmanned Aerial Vehicles \(UAVs\)](#)**, and **Special Forces**, customised for specific operational roles.



2 RUDRA BRIGADES

➤ Some existing units & formations **being converted to all-arms ones** by integrating infantry, mechanised infantry, armoured (tanks), artillery, special forces and UAVs

➤ Two of these **Rudra brigades** already set up; all units in these will be deployed together permanently

➤ **New Bhairav light commando battalions**, drawn from infantry, to have latest weapons, gadgets & drones

- **Bhairav Light Commando Battalions:** Planned raising of **40-50 agile, lethal battalions** for swift border incursions; to supplement existing **Para-Special Force (SF)** and **Para (Airborne)** units.
- **Artillery & Drone:** The Army is raising '**Shaktibaan**' **artillery regiments** with **special 'Divyadrishti' surveillance** and **loitering munitions batteries** for precision strikes.

- Over **400 infantry battalions** will be equipped with **dedicated drone platoons**, with a strong push for **UAV integration across combat formations**.
- **Army Air Defence (AAD):** Strengthened with **2 Akash Prime** and **3 Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) regiments** for high-altitude and rapid response, with IAF support.

Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs):

- IBGs are **brigade-sized, agile, and self-sufficient combat formations** designed to **swiftly launch strikes** against adversaries during hostilities.
- They are tailored for **rapid mobilisation and effectiveness** in **modern, high-tempo warfare**.

COLD START: MOBILISE FAST & HIT HARD

THE PAST

- 13-lakh strong Army's strike formations took a month to mobilise under **Operation Parakram** in border launch pads against Pakistan after Dec 2001 terrorist attack on Parliament
- This gave enough time to Pak to shore up defences as well as the international community to intervene
- Led to the "Pro-Active War Strategy" or "Cold Start" aimed at mobilising fast & striking hard
- A series of major combat exercises conducted over the years to practice swift multiple offensives into enemy territory

THE PRESENT

- Army has designed new integrated battle groups (IBGs) as agile, self-contained fighting formations that can mobilise



fast & hit hard

- Each IBG has around **5,000 soldiers**, with a mix of infantry, armoured, artillery, air defence, signals, engineers, logistics etc
- IBGs exercised on the western & eastern fronts in 2019

THE FUTURE

- The composite IBGs will be commanded by **Major-Generals**. They will be larger than brigades (which have 3,000

soldiers each) but smaller than divisions (12,000 soldiers)

- Each IBG will be configured as per the nature of threat, the type of terrain involved & the task to be achieved
- **8 IBGs** will first come up under the 9 Corps (headquarters at Yol), 17 Corps (Panagarh) & 33 Corps (Sukna)
- The efficacy of these IBGs will first be validated over 3 to 4 years before more are set up

Read More: [Modernising India's Defence](https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/indian-army-adapts-tactics-to-counter-two-front-threats)