



GEN SUNDARJI MEMORIAL LECTURE 2024

**CHARTING THE COURSE: GENERAL SUNDARJI'S LEGACY
AND VISION 2100 IN THE DYNAMIC EVOLUTION OF WARFARE**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The strategic contributions of General K. Sundarji to the Indian Army and national defense policy were profound and multifaceted, shaping India's military modernization and strategic doctrines well into the 21st century. The focus of the 4th General Sundarji Memorial Lecture 2024 was his book "Vision 2100: A Strategy for the Twenty-First Century." General Sundarji's forward-thinking approach is encapsulated in this seminal work, where he articulated a comprehensive strategy addressing the evolving dynamics of global warfare, emphasizing the integration of advanced technologies and innovative warfare strategies.

Speaking at the event, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande highlighted General Sundarji's legacy, including a strong focus on developing India's nuclear doctrine and emphasizing the principles of no first use and minimum credible deterrence. His leadership during complex times, including adjustments in military policy following global events and regional tensions, demonstrated his strategic depth and understanding of international relations.

Speaking on the theme "Need for National Security Policy," Shri N.N. Vohra stated that India needs a robust National Security Policy due to the several complex and intertwined challenges it faces, ranging from geopolitical threats to internal security issues. The policy should integrate various components of national security to ensure cohesive functionality and responsiveness to emerging contingencies. Economic stability is essential for supporting sustainable defense capabilities, with a specific note on the need for reforms that address inherited military and organizational structures from the colonial era. Illegal migration, transnational crime and regional insurgencies exacerbate social, economic and political disturbances, posing substantial challenges to the country. A comprehensive reform of the "Home Ministry" and other security agencies is required to focus solely on security-related duties, enhance technological and operational capabilities and ensure efficient management of new and evolving security threats.

General Subrata Saha, speaking on Lessons from General Sundarji in modernizing the armed forces, stated that General Sundarji's approach to modernizing the Indian Army during the 1990s and early 2000s was characterized by a forward-thinking integration of new military concepts and technologies, aimed at enhancing operational effectiveness and adapting to contemporary challenges. A notable aspect of Sundarji's leadership was his emphasis on the "man-machine mix," harmonizing human skills with technological advancements to optimize military operations. This was complemented by his adept navigation of complex political and strategic landscapes, managing domestic challenges like Operation Blue Star and external pressures.

The enduring impact of Sundarji's strategic vision calls for a continuous update and adaptation of these strategies to address current and future military challenges, ensuring that the Indian Armed Forces remain prepared and resilient in a dynamically evolving geopolitical landscape.

CONCEPT NOTE

1. The General Krishnaswamy Sundarji Memorial Lecture on Charting the Course: General Sundarji's Legacy and Vision 2100 in the Dynamic Evolution of Warfare aims to honor the legacy and contributions of one of India's most visionary military leaders. The purpose of this lecture was two-fold: it seeks to celebrate the monumental legacy of General K Sundarji, a luminary in the annals of India's military history, renowned for his strategic acumen and transformative contributions towards modernizing the nation's defense framework. Concurrently, it endeavors to delve into the prescient insights encapsulated in his seminal work, Vision 2100, examining its pertinence against the backdrop of today's rapidly evolving geopolitical and security landscape.
2. General Sundarji's foresight, regarding the intersection of technological innovation and the future of warfare, forms the cornerstone of our thematic exploration. His prognostications envisioned a world where advancements in the information technology revolution would radically alter the conduct of war and the global security paradigm. Such a perspective necessitates commitment to innovation in realms pivotal to maintaining a strategic edge, such as surveillance and command and control systems. The emergence of cyber and grey zone warfare in recent times has challenged traditional notions of deterrence and necessitated adaptation to new-age technologies.
3. Through Vision 2100, he articulated a nuanced stance on nuclear armament, advocating a balanced approach mitigating the risks of escalation and addressing the economic and strategic ramifications inherent in large-scale weaponization. His discourse on nuclear asymmetry remains highly germane, offering invaluable insights for current and future policy formulation. The critical question today is whether the possession of a stockpile of nuclear arsenal could dissuade a nation like China from encroaching upon Indian territory or engaging in diplomatic offensives like issuing maps depicting Indian territory as part of its own territory.
4. General K Sundarji also presaged the diminishing legitimacy of traditional nation-states, attributing this trend to the rise of sub-nationalism and the proliferation of insurgencies, complicated by technological and nuclear disparities. He emphasized public discourse in shaping defense and security policies, highlighting the need for transparent, inclusive decision-making processes. Through informed debate, society can contribute constructively to the formulation of robust, responsible nuclear doctrines and security strategies that prioritize long-term stability and crisis management.
5. India's emergence as a significant global player in the 21st century necessitates a comprehensive examination of its strategic posture in the face of the changing nature of warfare. While the country's resources have never been greater, it faces distinct and unprecedented hurdles that require adept strategic navigation. The aim is to delve into the complexities of India's strategic environment, analyzing its resources, interests, adversaries and the overarching need for a coherent strategy to adapt to the dynamic evolution of warfare. By reflecting on the enduring insights of Vision 2100, the lecture aims to catalyze strategic thinking and policy-making that is both reflective of Sundarji's visionary legacy and responsive to the evolving demands of global peace and security.

WELCOME ADDRESS

LT GEN DUSHYANT SINGH, PVSM, AVSM (RETD), DG CLAWS

General Sundarji was renowned for his strategic foresight and clarity, drawing comparisons to Kautilya for his nimble thinking in formulating military strategies. His seminal work, "Vision 2100: A Strategy for the Twenty-First Century," reflects his profound understanding of the transition from the agrarian age to the information era and offers a blueprint for handling evolving geopolitical dynamics. His theories addressed demographic explosions, shifts in global power and the potential clash of civilizations, anticipating the transition from traditional warfare to revolutions driven by information technology that could reshape global power structures.

His insights into nuclear doctrine and tactical warfare remain pivotal in today's complex security environment, where the threat of conflict is ever-present. Discussions highlighted by Shiv Shankar Menon in 'Choices' revealed Sundarji's view of nuclear capability as a counter to Chinese conventional superiority, contrasting with Raja Ramana's perspective of nuclear arms as political and military leverage.

The global challenges of recent times, including the rise of China and the COVID-19 pandemic, have tested established norms and presented India with opportunities to assert its resilience and strategic autonomy. Sundarji's strategic legacy provides valuable insights into navigating the complexities of modern warfare and adapting to shifting geopolitical landscapes. His practical strategies and recommendations continue to offer guidance in understanding and managing the dynamics of modern conflicts and international relations.

Key points for the deliberation include:

1. How to integrate insights from "Vision 2100" on AI and cyber warfare into India's military strategy while preserving traditional strengths.
2. Strategies to mitigate risks from the escalating US-China rivalry and China-Pakistan collusion in a potential multi-front conflict scenario, leveraging Sundarji's dynamic strategic approaches.
3. Recalibration of India's nuclear doctrine in response to regional tensions and the proliferation of non-state actors, maintaining stability and deterrence based on the principles outlined in "Vision 2100".

As we honour General Sundarji's legacy, it's clear that his influence extends beyond theoretical frameworks. His spirit inspires ongoing efforts to uphold peace, security and prosperity, encouraging strategic innovation and thoughtful leadership in a changing world.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS**GEN MANOJ PANDE PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC
CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF**

General K. Sundarji's pivotal contributions extended beyond his military service, notably in authoring India's nuclear doctrine and significantly influencing the country's strategic positioning. General Sundarji's vision in the fields of digitization of the battlefield, information warfare, technology infusion, conventional strategies and force structure is reflected in his work "Vision 2100."

In his seminal work "Vision 2100," General Sundarji articulated his thoughts broadly in four aspects: 1) A crystal gaze: Geopolitical and strategic world scenarios of the 21st century from a security perspective, 2) His vision of nuclear strategy for India, 3) Conventional strategy and force restructuring and 4) National security management. The principles of no first use and minimum credible deterrence shaping India's nuclear strategy are reflective of the strategic role played by General Sundarji in India's nuclear doctrine.

The landscape of warfare is evolving rapidly, with disruptive technologies and non-state actors playing significant roles. India's journey towards self-reliance in indigenous technology, is crucial for maintaining a competitive edge on the battlefield. The evolving and complex security environment has increased the relevance of hard power and the need for a credible military deterrent to address both conventional and unconventional threats.

Technological advancements like quantum computing, robotics, 3D printing and nanotechnology are transformative forces in warfare, enhancing lethality and precision. Information technology and operations are providing a competitive edge, with the cyber domain playing a crucial role in national infrastructure and as a battleground for digital confrontation. The commercial availability of disruptive technologies, now accessible to non-state actors, poses new challenges for maintaining security and military advantages.

General Sundarji's call for self-reliance in indigenous technology resonates strongly in today's environment, where technological prowess determines military capability. There is a need for India to achieve self-reliance in critical technologies to avoid dependency on external sources, as evidenced by challenges seen during the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. No country will share the latest technology, which tends to keep us one technology cycle behind. The strategic intent to leverage the indigenous defense industry for exporting military hardware aims to meet India's defense requirements while also boosting domestic production capabilities.

The Indian Army is aware of the imperative of transformation and it is with a progressive outlook that we intend not only to change but to change at a good pace too. The holistic transformation of the Indian Army, initiated two years ago, is part of our efforts to shape a modern, agile, adaptive, technology-enabled and self-reliant future-ready force.

It is essential to foster indigenous research and development within India's vibrant technology ecosystem-which includes academic institutions, startups, innovation centers, IT companies and manufacturing hubs. This will ensure self-sufficiency in critical technologies.

Modernization initiatives within the Indian Army includes the induction of new technologies and systems to improve mobility, protection, communications and surveillance capabilities. Approximately 45 niche technologies identified for military applications and about 120 indigenous projects aimed at developing and integrating these technologies were mentioned. Centers of Excellence, such as the 5G testbed, AI lab and quantum lab, have been established in technical institutions to incubate and develop key technologies in collaboration with premier institutes like the IITs.

Developing linkages among academia, research institutions, industry and the military is crucial for building core competencies in critical technologies and enhancing production capacities.

A holistic transformation of the Indian Army is required to become a joint, adaptive, technology-enabled and self-reliant force. This highlights the necessity of synergy among various stakeholders and overcoming resistance to change to meet national security objectives.

NEED FOR NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

SHRI NN VOHRA

The speaker reflected on his four-decade-long acquaintance with General Sundarji, highlighting their formal interactions and the profound impact of Sundarji's leadership on the Indian Army. General Sundarji was a clear-headed and fearless leader, admired for his disregard for how his direct expressions were received by others. His foresight and intellectual prowess earned him widespread respect among his peers and subordinates.

General Sundarji made significant contributions to military strategy and operations, particularly in revising and rewriting the Indian Army War Manual, as well as in conceptualizing and executing major military exercises such as Exercise Brasstacks, which have had lasting impacts on military training and preparedness.

Sundarji was involved in controversial military operations, including Operation Blue Star and the deployment of the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka. These operations must be viewed within the broader context of the political and economic situations of those times. These actions were shaped by complex, situational pressures rather than unilateral military decisions.

General Sundarji faced leadership challenges, particularly the difficulties of leading in an environment that often lacked a clear and cohesive policy framework. Sundarji's leadership style was decisively fearless and outspoken, which sometimes resulted in both temporary and long-lasting dissonance within the military and broader defense community.

General Sundarji must be credited with substantial advancements in India's strategic military thinking, especially in terms of nuclear policy and deterrence. Critical debates that Sundarji led often extended into late hours and involved key defense figures and policymakers. These discussions were instrumental in shaping the strategic doctrines that continue to influence India's defense policies today.

The enduring impact of General Sundarji's decisions and thought processes extends beyond the military community, significantly influencing the national policy landscape. His role in catalyzing significant policy shifts and doctrinal developments has been crucial in shaping modern India's defense strategies.

The relevance of military and organizational structures inherited from the British colonial era should be questioned, with a call for reforms that align better with contemporary challenges. There is a need for a comprehensive policy framework that integrates various components of national security and defense, ensuring cohesive functionality and responsiveness to emerging contingencies.

Economic stability is critical for supporting defense capabilities. The example of China's economic growth and subsequent military modernization highlight the importance of economic prosperity in sustaining a robust defense system.

India's vast land and maritime boundaries present significant security challenges due to their size and complexity, making their maintenance both crucial and difficult. Persistent security issues in regions such as the Northeast and Punjab, including insurgencies and the impact of large-scale illegal immigration, exacerbate social, economic and political challenges, underscoring the complexity of national security concerns.

The prevalence of drug trafficking, weapon smuggling and other forms of transnational crime poses significant challenges for India, strategically positioned between the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent. This geographical location makes it a major transit route for such illicit activities. The issue of illegal immigration, particularly from Myanmar, compounds these challenges, leading to law and order problems and broader social and political disturbances across affected regions.

Both the central and state governments have the constitutional responsibility of safeguarding the nation against external and internal threats. The Union is obligated to intervene in states during internal disturbances, such as the Punjab crisis in 1984, deploying central forces or military units as necessary.

State police forces face numerous operational challenges, often stemming from poor working conditions, inadequate training and a general neglect of welfare. This has created a discrepancy between their assigned responsibilities and their actual capabilities. Funding shortfalls exacerbate these issues, with police forces often receiving less financial support than needed, undermining their effectiveness and impacting morale, discipline and public trust.

The inefficiencies within the criminal justice system are stark, with prolonged investigations and trials causing accused individuals to spend more time in jail than the minimum sentences prescribed. District courts and prosecution agencies suffer from underfunding and are understaffed, leading to significant delay in case processing. Concerns about the professional capability and integrity of the lower judiciary persist, with nearly 50 million cases pending in Indian courts, severely impacting the enforcement of the rule of law.

Despite various commissions and committees recommending reforms to the justice and security systems, there has been a notable lack of political will to implement necessary changes, further straining the capacity of India's security and judicial infrastructure to effectively manage and mitigate the complex array of challenges it faces.

Significant reforms in the Home Ministry are required, with a focus on ensuring that it solely undertakes security-related duties. The Ministry of Home Affairs must be led by dedicated professionals with sufficient tenure to implement necessary changes effectively. Additionally, a dedicated pool of volunteer officers from diverse sectors including civil, police, military, science, technology and banking could be created. These officers would be well-trained and strategically deployed across various ministries such as Home, Defence, External Affairs and the Intelligence Bureau to enhance the overall security framework.

Training officers within the realm of security management throughout their careers is of critical importance. This would ensure that they acquire deep expertise and understanding in this field. Significant enhancements in both the technological and physical resources available to civilian intelligence agencies should be done, along with the establishment of oversight mechanisms to assess the timeliness and accuracy of the intelligence these agencies provide.

The current utilization of Central Armed Police Forces for election duties, which diverts them from their primary roles such as border guarding should be avoided. They should be involved as minimally as possible in non-security duties to maintain focus on essential security tasks. A robust National Security Policy is required to ensure that the Central Armed Police Forces are well-prepared to handle internal disturbances, with the military reserved for addressing severe threats or instances of external aggression impacting national security.

Comprehensive reforms within the police and security agencies are necessary to develop a more specialized, federal and independent operational framework. This framework would be better equipped to efficiently manage the spectrum of new and evolving security threats. The complex and demanding nature of border guarding, exacerbated by geographical challenges and past strategic failures in border management, highlight the need for enhanced border security measures.

The intertwined and complex nature of security management, which spans multiple government departments and sectors, warrants a unified approach. This is essential for effective security management, ensuring coordination and cooperation across all levels of government to address the multifaceted security challenges faced by the nation.

MODERNISING INDIA'S ARMED FORCES: LESSONS FROM GEN K SUNDARJI

LT GEN (DR) SUBRATA SAHA, PVSM, UYSM, YSM, VSM (RETD)**

General Sundarji's comprehensive vision for modernizing the Indian Army during the 1990s and early 2000s. This vision was rooted in adapting the Army to contemporary challenges through the integration of new military concepts and technologies, thus enhancing its operational effectiveness. His leadership period was marked by significant strategic deployments, notably to the Siachen Glacier, exemplifying his proactive approach to high-altitude warfare. His strategic method involved detailed scenario building and rigorous testing of military strategies through exercises, ensuring their viability and effectiveness in real-world situations.

General Sundarji championed the “man-machine mix,” focusing on harmonizing human skills with technological advancements to optimize military operations. His tenure was also characterized by navigating complex political and strategic scenarios, managing both domestic challenges and external pressures. His strategies were comprehensive, addressing threats across multiple fronts—from securing borders against northern and western adversaries to managing internal security issues effectively.

One significant move during Sundarji's tenure was the establishment of a summer observation post at Sumdorong Chu in 1984, a strategic position later contested by China in 1986. This led to Operation Falcon, where India proactively inducted an entire brigade into the sector, reflecting Sundarji's assertive stance on border security. The escalation of tensions with China was eventually mitigated through diplomatic efforts, culminating in Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Beijing in 1988 and the subsequent signing of the Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement in 1993.

General Sundarji's strategic foresight was also evident in his handling of military exercises such as Exercise Chequerboard, which reinforced Indian positions across the border and initiated infrastructural developments like road-building programs that had been stalled since the 1970s. His military maneuvers not only bolstered India's defense posture but also influenced regional security dynamics, particularly impacting Pakistan's strategic planning as seen during exercises like Brasstacks.

The rationale behind India's intervention in Sri Lanka was multifaceted, encompassing concerns over Sri Lanka's military collaborations with Pakistan and China that threatened India's strategic interests. The influx of Tamil refugees into India added a domestic dimension to the conflict, stirring local sympathies and fears of separatism in Tamil Nadu, thereby justifying India's intervention to stabilize the region and prevent further escalation.

The development of India's nuclear weapons policy was a response to regional threats, particularly influenced by the U.S. President's Amendment Act that allowed Pakistan to enrich Uranium. This situation necessitated India's pursuit of a nuclear deterrent to maintain regional balance and ensure national security.

The Indian Armed Forces must continuously learn from General Sundarji's strategic approaches. Updating and adapting to his strategies to meet current and future military challenges ensures that the forces remain prepared and resilient in an ever-evolving geopolitical landscape.

During General Sundarji's tenure, the broader political and strategic environment was marked by significant challenges, including Operation Blue Star and the complexities in Punjab, influenced by both domestic politics and external pressures. His military approach was comprehensive, encapsulating what he termed a "360 Degrees application of military strategy." This approach addressed a multitude of threats across multiple fronts, from the northern and western borders to internal security issues in the southern regions of India. Exercise Brasstacks, profoundly impacted Pakistan's strategic planning and military readiness.

His actions and strategic decisions during his tenure were pivotal in shaping the regional security environment and highlight the necessity of continuous learning and adaptation in military strategy. The lessons drawn from his approaches remain integral to the ongoing recommendations for enhancing the operational capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces.

Significant initiatives and military postures adopted during General Sundarji's tenure profoundly influenced India's defense strategies and diplomatic relations with neighboring countries. These strategic measures laid essential groundwork for future confidence-building measures and border agreements, which were crucial for regional stability.

The period was also marked by significant military reforms aimed at improving operational capabilities, including the introduction of new classifications for helicopters suited for mountain warfare. The integration of modern technology with traditional military equipment was emphasized to enhance the effectiveness of military operations. Furthermore, the creation of a perspective planning directorate for concept development underscored the strategic initiative to streamline military organizational structures. The importance of scenario building and field exercises was highlighted as essential in shaping effective military strategies, ensuring that the armed forces remained adaptable and responsive to the evolving geopolitical landscape and technological advancements. These reforms and strategies collectively reflect a continued effort to modernize and enhance India's military capabilities in response to changing global dynamics.

The philosophy of balancing human skills with technological advancements in the military is essential in the strategic development of the Indian Army. It is important to not solely focus on acquiring new technology but also on enhancing the capabilities of personnel. This approach seeks to ensure that modernization efforts improve both the technological and human elements of military operations.

Synergy between different arms of the military is crucial for maximizing operational effectiveness. A combined approach that leverages both state-of-the-art and upgraded equipment across various military branches can lead to more cohesive and effective defense strategies.

The ongoing strategic challenges faced by India on its borders with China and Pakistan must be kept in mind, with particular attention to the continuing confrontations and the complex military relationships in the region. These challenges underscore the need for continuous modernization and strategic readiness.

There is a need to further modernize India's military capabilities, taking into account the evolving geopolitical landscape and the need to maintain a competitive edge in technology and strategic capabilities. This modernization is envisioned to address the broad spectrum of contemporary and future threats while enhancing the overall combat readiness of the forces.

A comprehensive strategy for integrating technology and strategic operations in modern warfare is required, emphasizing the need for a tight integration of technology with strategic operations, tactics and threat assessments. This integration aims to enhance combat effectiveness across traditional and emerging domains of warfare, including space, cyber and electromagnetic spaces.

The expanding role of high technology in warfare is evident, particularly advancements in artificial intelligence, drones and hypersonic technologies in major global powers like the US and China. These technologies facilitate rapid global engagement capabilities, prompting the need for India to advance its own technological arsenal.

The formation of panels comprising domain experts from both military strategy and technology is recommended to guide India's future warfighting concepts and technological advancements. These panels would play a pivotal role in shaping the strategic and technological future of India's military.

A shift towards non-contact warfare is being witnessed, with a focus on strategies to dominate adversaries through incapacitation and control using a variety of methods, including cyberattacks, electromagnetic attacks and psychological operations. This shift reflects a broader global trend towards more sophisticated and less overtly confrontational forms of warfare.

India should revisit its nuclear doctrine in response to rapidly advancing nuclear capabilities and emerging technologies like hypersonic weapons from other countries. This revision would ensure that India's nuclear strategy remains relevant and effective against the backdrop of new technological threats.

Substantial reforms in national security are necessary to align defense, foreign policy and other strategic pillars with contemporary technological capabilities and emerging global threats. These reforms are critical for ensuring that India's strategic frameworks are robust, adaptable and forward-looking.

Need to create an Army technology leaders cadre, aimed at identifying technologically inclined officers early in their careers and providing them with targeted education and leadership roles in technology-driven projects and units. This initiative would cultivate a new generation of military leaders who are well-versed in the latest technological advancements and capable of integrating these tools into India's defense strategy.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM Q&A SESSION

India currently lacks a formal national security framework, leading to political hesitation in adopting a formal policy due to fears of losing flexibility and the ability to explore various options. This hesitation stems from a reluctance within the political system to commit to a formal policy, preferring the freedom to react to crises on an ad-hoc basis. The absence of a formal framework results in inconsistencies when different governments come to power, as new administrations often undo the policies and initiatives of their predecessors, leading to instability and wasted resources. A formal policy and doctrine are advocated to provide a stable foundation for national security, with the suggestion that policies can be reviewed and adjusted as needed, but a basic framework is essential.

The responsibility for protecting states against external aggression and internal disturbances is assigned to the Union by the constitution. Currently, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) manages internal security and deploys central armed police forces as required. However, there is a perceived mismatch between the responsibility for safeguarding borders and the forces executing these tasks. The Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) are under the MHA, yet external border protection should ideally be under the Ministry of Defence.

Post-independence, border management evolved with the creation of specific forces after significant conflicts (e.g., the 1962 and 1965 wars). Initially, border areas were patrolled by local police and volunteers, highlighting the need for a more structured and uniform approach. Ethical governance and accountability in the political system are crucial, with criticisms of populist measures that lack financial backing and calls for a more disciplined approach to national security.

Better integration and synergy between different forces guarding the borders are needed. A unified command under the Ministry of Defence could enhance effectiveness and coordination. Describing the difficult conditions on the border post-independence, inadequate resources and harsh environments were highlighted. Issues such as operational control and administrative responsibility often do not align, leading to inefficiencies. Unified control is necessary, with operational control aligning with administrative responsibility to avoid confusion and improve effectiveness.

The classification of important reports and documents prevents public access and scrutiny, calling for more transparency and publication of non-sensitive parts of reports. Corruption and smuggling concerns in border areas are exacerbated by the lack of unified control and oversight, emphasizing the need for ethical governance and strict control to prevent illegal activities.

Advocacy for a formal national security policy to provide a clear framework and guidelines was emphasized, pointing out the absence of a written policy which leads to ad-hoc decisions and a lack of coherence in national security matters. Public awareness and involvement in national security issues are crucial, with suggestions that military leaders should regularly brief the media to keep the public informed and engaged.

The constitutional duties of citizens to safeguard the country, regardless of their role or location, were emphasized, calling for a collective effort and sacrifices from citizens to support national security initiatives. The "one border, one force" principle was supported, acknowledging the complexities in its implementation and recognizing the need for a principal armed force (the Army) to take primary responsibility while ensuring coordination with other forces.

There is a need for decisive methods and clear policies, especially in sectors like the Eastern sector where specific tactical requirements (e.g., deployment of SAM missiles) need to be addressed. Resource limitations necessitate balancing available resources effectively. The strength and deployment of security forces, such as those managed by the Home Ministry, need to be clear and adequate. Issues related to the fitness and readiness of forces were noted, with continuous deployment in non-combat roles impacting combat readiness and a need for a reorientation period to prepare for actual combat operations.

A distinction between the roles of state police and central forces is necessary, with the state police handling local law enforcement and central forces (like the army) reserved for more critical national security roles. Training and accountability of state police are essential, with adequate pay and accountability reducing reliance on central forces for routine law enforcement. There is a lack of expertise and coordination in formulating a cohesive national security policy, often suffering from a lack of consensus leading to ineffective or diluted policies. A clear demarcation of responsibilities is required, identifying who is accountable for different domains of warfare and who is acquiring the necessary capabilities to address these threats.

Legislative action may be necessary to enforce a coherent national security strategy, similar to the Goldwater-Nichols Act in the United States, with consideration of India's unique context. Military and security services need to take responsibility for addressing these challenges and guiding national security policy effectively. Engaging with the public and communicating the importance of these issues is necessary, despite often strong reactions to forceful measures. There is a commitment to addressing these issues, including continuous dialogue and engagement with stakeholders.

CLOSING REMARKS AND VOTE OF THANKS**LT GEN P S SHEKHAWAT, AVSM, SM, GOC MADHYA BHARAT AREA AND
COLONEL OF THE MECHANISED INFANTRY REGIMENT**

General Sundarji was a key figure in formulating India's draft nuclear doctrine, showcasing his ability to navigate the complexities of strategic defence planning. His foresight into the decline of large-scale warfare paved the way for understanding the increased relevance of knowledge-based, multi-domain warfare.

General Sundarji recognized that technological advancements offer both opportunities and challenges for modern warfare. It is necessary to maintain a delicate balance between leveraging tech innovation and preserving traditional power structures. The concept of 'Atma Nirbharta' (self-reliance) was central to Sundarji's vision, underscoring the need for India to safeguard its strategic autonomy in an increasingly interconnected world.

Cultural divisions are a predominant reason for clashes in contemporary times, illustrating the need for innovative approaches to address multifaceted challenges arising from societal changes.

General Sundarji believed that India could emerge as a stabilising force in the world, utilising its unique position and capabilities to foster global peace and stability. The life of a military doctrine typically spans 20-30 years, necessitating ongoing research and adaptation to remain relevant and effective in the face of evolving threats.

Sundarji advocated for continuous adaptation and evolution of military strategies to meet changing threats, emphasising the importance of flexibility and responsiveness in defence planning and execution.

SCHEDULE

Time (h)	Event	Remarks
1000h	Arrival of Guests	-
1010 – 1020	Introduction To Event and Brief About Gen Sundarji	-
1020 – 1030	Movie Clip: Mech Inf's Inception And Journey So Far	-
1030 – 1040	Welcome Address	Lt Gen Dushyant Singh, PVSM, AVSM, (Retd)
1040 – 1100	Keynote Address	Gen Manoj Pande, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC
1100 – 1140	Need For a National Security Policy	Shri NN Vohra, Padma Vibhushan
1145 – 1225	Modernising India's Armed Forces: Lessons From Gen K Sundarji	Lt Gen (Dr) Subrata Saha, PVSM, UYSM, YSM, VSM** (Retd)
1230 – 1250	Questions & Answers	-
1250 – 1300	Vote of Thanks and Closing Remarks	Lt Gen PS Shekhawat, AVSM, SM, GOC MB Area & Col of the Mech Inf
1310 – 1320	Presentation of Mementoes	-
1320 – 1330	Group Photo	-
1340	Lunch	-

PHOTOS GALLERY

COAS delivering the Opening Address



Group Photo of Distinguished Speakers and Officers with COAS



Shri NN Vohra and Lt Gen Subrata Saha during the Q&A Session