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# Significance Of 1999 Kargil War

## How It Became A Major Game Changer For Indian Military

### Why In The News?

- India Celebrated The **24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Of Its Military Victory In 1999 Kargil War**. The War Was Foisted On India By A Pakistan Army Chief, Blind With Military Ambition To Capture Kashmir Valley And Saltoro Ridge On The Siachen Glacier Through Planned Troop Intrusions.



### Significance Of The War

- Initially Surprised At The Audacity Of The Plan, The Indian Army Took Over 2 Months To Chuck Out The Intruders But In Turn **Lost 527 Braves In The War**. The War Showed That The **Indian Army Was Capable Of Taking Out The Enemy Against All Odds**.
- The Military Victory At Kargil Against Pakistan Brought Global Spotlight On **Cross-Border Terrorism Practiced By Islamabad Since 1990** But Also Showed How India Could Defend Its Borders With Restraint And Impose Huge Military And Political Costs On The Enemy.

- Even Though India Lost Fearless Young Officers And Men At Rarefied Heights And Glaciated Battlefields, **The War Was A Game-changer For India, A Crucial Step In Its Quest To Become A Developed Nation.**



## Why Kargil Was A Game-Changer For India?

- First, The War Not Only Forced The Country's Political Leadership To **Initiate Modernization Of Its Conventional Military Power** But Also To **Reform The National Security Architecture** With A Task Force Headed By **K Subramanyam**, Father Of EAM S Jaishankar, Spelling Out The Vital Requirements.
- The Post Of **Chief Of Defence Staff (CDS)** Was Proposed By The Subrahmanyam Committee When The **NDA Government Under Atal Bihari Vajpayee** Was In Power But It Took Two Decades To Implement The Recommendation.
- On **January 1, 2020**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Appointed **General Bipin Rawat As The First CDS Of India. Indian Army Reorganized Its Commands** And Raised A Strike Corps Against China At Pannagarh, Right Opposite The Chumbi Valley Siliguri Corridor To Take On The PLA Challenge.
- Reforms Were Also Initiated In The **Indian Intelligence** With Then Director, Intelligence Bureau, Ajit Doval Setting Up The **Multi-Agency Center (MAC)** And **Joint Task Force On Intelligence (JTFI)** During His Short Tenure In 2004.
- India Started **Border Infrastructure Upgradation** In The Earnest With **Advanced Landing Grounds** All Along The Line Of Actual Control (LAC) And **State Of Art**

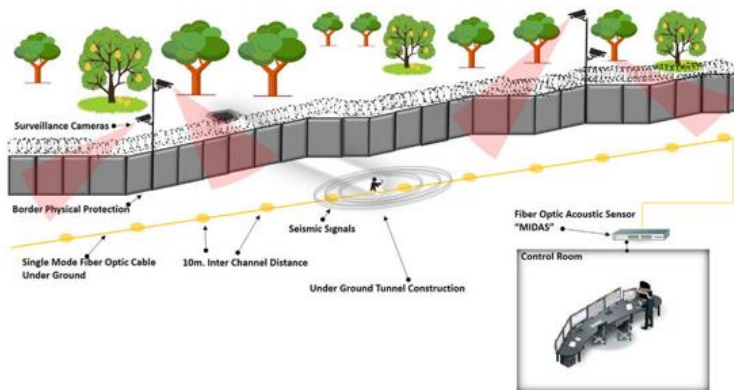


**Platforms** Like Chinook Helicopters For Rapid Insertion Of Forces To Meet The Challenge Of A Superpower Neighbor.

- The **Air Strips At Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO), Nyoma, Thoise And Leh** Have Been Upgraded So That Indian Troops Deployed On Saltoro Ridge Are Not Surprised From China And Its Client Pakistan In The Name Of CPEC.



- The On-going Ukraine War Like Kargil Has Shown That **There Is Always Scope For Conventional War** Even Though The Era Of Stand-off Weapons Like Drones, Cyber And Missiles Has Dawned.
- Even With Overwhelming Power, Russia Is Facing Reverses In The Ukraine War As Indian Army Took Over Two Months To Decimate The Pakistan Army Troopers Perched On Kargil Heights. That The Wars Tend To Drag On And Can Lead To **Loss Of Military Prestige Is Evident From The Military Losses Faced By Russia.**
- The Indian Army Suffered At The Hands Of Pakistan Artillery At Kargil As **It Did Not Have The Gun Locating Radars, Surveillance Drones Or Laser Guided Ammunition.**
- The **Radars** Were Acquired From The **US** After The War, Just As **Israelis** Provided **Searcher Drones, Laser Guided Bomb Kits** For Surveillance And Targeting Were Inducted At The Last Minute In The **Drass Sector** In June 1999.
- The **Border Sensors** Were Provided By **Israel** Post War To Prevent Cross -Border Infiltration In The Valley. India Needs To Go For Full Spectrum **“Make In India”** To Ensure That Indian Military Has Not Only Indigenous Platforms But Also Indigenous Ammunition To Fight A Prolonged War And Defend India.



- Even Though PM Modi Has Been Pushing The **“Atmanirbhar Bharat”** Program With All His Might, The **Indian Defence PSUS And Hardware Developers** Are Putting Hurdles On The **Entry Of Private Sector** In This Field.
- If India Is Destined To Become A **Developed Nation By 2047**, A Strong Defence Supply Chain Is The Need Of The Hour. **The Adversary Today Is Rising Superpower China Not Crisis Tangled Pakistan.**



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