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The Armed Forces of a country are essential not only to guarantee security against any external threat but also to ensure internal peace and stability which can be jeopardized by factors like law and order enforcement problems, and combating natural calamities etc., for instance. Being the only alternative available to tackle national crisis, use of force by the nations can be traced back right from their origin. The Armed Forces, more appropriately, symbolise the use of force giving impetus to the theory of deference which aims at compelling the adversary to do something or to refrain him from doing certain thing by threatening a penalty for non-compliance. The Armed Forces in this context are a tool to implement the national policy.

The evolutionary effects on the society as a whole have been felt rather more in case of military. The socio-economic developments have tended to change the politico-military phenomenon as well. The introduction of scientific and technological aspect to the power building process changed not only the pattern of fighting but also the organisation part. The beginning of
Naval and Air Warfare are the corollaries of the same stream of science and technology. Similarly, the fighting and organisation in the Land Warfare have undergone unprecedented changes having a significant bearing on the socio-political structure of the nations.

The emergence of Indian Armed Forces in real sense of the word can be traced since 1947 onwards. Before this the forces belonged either to different kings and emperors with whose death those forces also disappeared. Last in the series they belonged to the British crown where in no effort was made to Indianise their character. For instance, the objectives and nature of the Indian Army remained to be more or less, the same, i.e., safeguarding the interests of the particular ruling authority or the individual at the helm of affairs. It would be of considerable interest to study the nature of the Indian Army in light of its traditions of morality, individual valour and bravery which in the absence of a suitable leadership crumbled down to the extent of disintegration. The examples of Anglo-Sikhs wars after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh amply establish this fact. Similarly, the 1962
debacle, as some experts feel, reflects the lack of proper coordination between the civil and military leadership causing considerable damage not only to the prestige of the Indian Army but of the nation as a whole. The same force, very soon regained its balance and proved strong enough to withstand the aggression. Within a span of two to three years the Indian Armed Forces reorganised and prepared themselves in such a manner as they washed off the stigma of 1962 when confronted with yet another aggressor in 1965 far better organised, prepared, equipped, armed with latest lethal means and highly motivated than the Chinese. Lessons learnt by the nation in 1962 stood us in a good stead in 1965 Indo-Pak conflict when the contribution of the forces raised the national morale quite high. The Indian Armed Forces made full use of the experience gained and proved to the adversaries in particular and the world in large during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan conflict born of the obtaining international turmoil that given the proper leadership they are second to none being the finest fighting outfit on the mother earth.
The present study aims at establishing the fact that the Indian Armed Forces in 1971 not only secured the integrity of the country at a critical juncture when the nation was faced with a crisis that was the most dangerous and internal-national in its outlook but, also, generated the highest degree of patriotic spirit and enthusiasm among the Indian public. The role of the forces, had never before integrated the nation through spirit and emotion as it was evident during the post-independence era. During the pre-independence period, especially, in 1857, the public feelings were not aroused in that manner. The World Wars meant little for the Indian masses and defence had remained a closed subject to the Indian intelligentsia till as late as 1962. In 1965, the Indian public started responding to the national crisis to a considerable extent. It was only in 1971, when the Indian forces to the surprise of the aggressor as also the world as a whole, liberated a suffering humanity of 75 million people of the adjoining erstwhile East Pakistan and established an independent state of Bangladesh, much against the wishes of the leading
champions of democracy i.e., the U.S.A. and the so-called sympathisers of the liberation forces, i.e., the Chinese. The aggressor was not only checked effectively but was beaten hollow on the Western Front too to the extent of being pursued homewards deep inside Pakistan. The Indian victory in 1971 Indo-Pakistan conflict was total and decisive in all respects— and the stigma of 1962 that was washed off in 1965 Indo-Pakistan conflict was obliterated as though with a surgical precision once for all in December 1971, so that the coming generations of the Indian forces could start afresh from the successive seventies.

The study endeavours to understand the traditions, evolution, nature and role of Armed Forces together with their bearing on India's security. A sincere effort has been made to analyse the Civil-Military relationship in the post-independence era. No doubt, the investigation seemed fraught with unsurmountable obstacles created by the hazards of security arising due to the researcher's professional commitment being a member of the Defence Forces himself. Hence, no attempt is being made to consider any tactical or technical aspects of the forces throughout the research effort which is entirely based on secondary
sources such as public books, news papers, magazines, research journals, parliamentary debates, Defence Ministry Reports, White papers, proceedings of seminars, Conferences, National Security Lectures published by USI, and personal interviews with experts on the subject, besides, of course, relying on researcher's personal professional experience as a serving Infantry soldier.

A wide range of Bibliography in support of the research work has been ascertained. The sources of secondary information have generally been the College Library of Atarra P.G. College Atarra and Bundelkhand University Jhansi. In addition, a lot of relevant study material was found available at Jiwaji University Library Gwalior, various Libraries at Delhi housed in South Block, Teen Murti House, Sapru House, Kashmir House, Jawaharlal Nehru University (Old and New Campus), Meerut University Meerut, Meerut College, Meerut and Punjabi University Patiala.

A general breakdown of the study carried out with a view to set about the investigation researching the facts with a systematic and progressive approach of course without any conceivable iota of bias whatsoever.
The introductory chapter apart from a general introduction of the research work touches upon the object of study, methodology and briefly gives out the characterisation scheme attempting an illustrative as well as comprehensive manner.

Chapter - I deals with Armed Forces of India before Partition and consists of a general background, and set up, functions, role and organisation each of Army, Navy and Air Force, respectively. A brief history of the defence set up of the ancient, medieval and British period is traced in this chapter with a view to analyse the concept of power and armed forces together with their relationship and evolution in context of the consequent impact on the organisation, functioning and overall set up with passage of time subsequently.

With independence and new constitution, most organisational and functional changes in the defence structure of Indian armed forces emerged including integration of certain contiguous areas of princely states and law and order enforcement necessitated by communal riots as aftermath of the partition, are covered in the second chapter. It also contains a
comprehensive analysis of the role played by the forces in counter insurgency operations in North Eastern parts of the country which fact is directly interlinked with 1971 period due to continuous commitment of the Indian armed man power. A brief mention of international law and order enforcement role of UN peace keeping missions portraying the prestigious share of the Indian force will also be found in this chapter. Civil supremacy over the forces, Chief of Defence Staff and various aspects like indigenous infrastructure based defence and development leading on to its evolutionary impact right up to 1971 period are generally focussed in this chapter to the extent appropriately possible within the constraints of the methodological barriers.

Chapter - III is specifically devoted to J and K which issue has till date been found at the root of the international relationship between India and Pakistan in particular as also the Sino-Indian, Indo-American and offshoots of various combinations/permussions between India on one hand and Pakistan, USA, and China on the other in a large perspective. India and the Muslim World dimension in inclusive. Hence, this exclusive chapter to facilitate a reasonable analysis of geostrategical and geopolitical
situation which persistently influenced events in the Indian sub-continent over the period between 1948-1962-1965 and similarly in 1971. Military revolt and setting up of Azad Kashmir within India are also covered. Merger of Kashmir has been deliberately carried forward from the previous chapter to be suitably inter-linked with 1948-49 events that are presented and judiciously elaborated in it. In addition, reorganisation of the Indian Army for consequent operations in the thick of tense internal administrative environment are also covered here. The Chapter is summed up with results and conclusion arrived at.

The most unfortunate period of post-independence era is contained in Chapter - IV without which justice would have been evaded to analyse the very hypothesis. Tracing the genesis of the Chinese factor in this comprehensive and self-explanatory Chapter, a brief historical background, India-China Talks and Line of Control and political differences including mapping encroachments on Indian territory would all be found discussed in it. Finally, the premeditated and planned historical attack by China and Post-mortem kind of analytical discussion concludes the sad chapter.
Like the human frame dictating terms of reference to the foot-print carriage of a person on space with both legs supporting, the coverage of the 1965 period is a must for correctly analysing the events that overstrained India up to November 1971 in phase one and till December 16, 1971 serving as phase two of the 'international headache' hence, Chapter - V. It portrays the causes of 1965 Indo-Pakistan Conflict and geostrategic as well as geopolitical situation of the time. Pakistani infiltrations, preparations and Pakistan President's declaration of war with India are focussed too. Part played by forces including Navy and Indian Air Force are briefly discussed and analysed here so that the same are not required to be included in 1971 period with a view to keep the volume of the Head chapter of 1971 in shape. Results of the conflict including lessons learnt which stood the Indians in a good stead in the next bout only after six years, are also discussed here rather briefly. The indispensable chapter is concluded by the famous Tashkent declaration which marked the end of innings of yet another great leader Lal Bahadur Shastri who could not bear the loss of the blood sacrificed by war heroes.
Background in herited from Swift violation of the Tashkent follow up, became the base of the crux Chapter - VI which contains the multifaceted events preceded by 1971 Indo-Pakistan conflict based on the foundation as well as the strength of which the very hypothesis has been conceived. The main features of the chapter are its chronologically, inter-connected parts without which it could not have been developed to bear the scrutiny of the whole research effort. Geostrategical/geopolitical aspects of the situation obtaining in an accumulated form have been briefly illustrated to begin with. Then comes the igniting factor of the whole issue, i.e., hijacking of the Fokker Friendship aircraft and the dramatic follow up events leading on to the planned attack. Thereafter, the role of Indian Armed Forces in context of Mukt Vahini is presented in an elaborated form bearing in mind the brevity as also the clarity of thought and the inherent consequences. That is followed by a brief and comprehensive analysis as to the force level between the two opposing camps. Role of the Armed Forces
in relation to one another constituent of the fighting outfit is traced almost in the end rather deliberately to highlight the mutual functional understanding analysing the unspoken trust based on full realisation of plus as well as compensational aspects of integrated approach to the team effort. The chapter is rightly summed up with the fall of Decca securing the historic surrender of a highly motivated, trained and heavily armed force of as many as 93,000 Pakistani defence personnel with their weaponry intact, which resulted in the birth of yet another fragment of the Indian sub-continent in the form of independent Republic of Bangladesh. That sparked off a new dimension to the unity of India through spiritual and mental integration pushing the multi-diversified rich cultural heritage to a back seat momentarily. National pride in disguise of 1971 Indo-Pakistan conflict was most evident on the spur of the moment throughout the length and the breadth of the country.

Then in the end comes Chapter - VII which has been described as a kind of a comparative study of the roles played by the Armed Forces before and after independence', critically analysing the chronological development of the situation obtaining between ending March-November, 1971
which cannot be fully comprehended without sincerely
taking into account the period between 1857-1947/48-1962-
1965 and 1971 till March 25 being indispensable links of
December 1971 'whole chain'.

Last but not the least, is sum total of the
research output in nutshell in the form of conclusions
and suggestions which were given their due for a broad
based discussion and concrete analysis in the preceding
chapter. Thus packs up the commentary form account of
the characterisation which concludes to the extent possible
endeavouring earnestly to make the volume sufficiently
transparent.

For the ease of a quick glance through and
presenting a diagramatic as also photographic index
of the total research work, in order to facilitate a
spontaneous bird eye-view analysis of the Central
theme of the topic, the maps, sketches and photographs
appropriately spaced are all based on secondary source
work and are basically due to inherent hazards of
security aspects of a researcher in uniform. As regards
the field work aspect of the effort, suffice it to say,
the length of service interspersed over all corners of the
Indian landscape should bear testimony to that effect.