

CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

TRANSPARENT WARFARE

EQUIPPING AND TRAINING TO WIN



18th

December 2024
WEDNESDAY



Manekshaw Centre,
Delhi Cantt



CONCEPT

A key defining characteristic of recent warfare is the dominance of ISR and target acquisition technologies for launching precision attacks on forward positions and neutralising rear echelon formations that were once perceived as 'hidden' and therefore 'safe'. A combination of military grade ISR systems such as high altitude ISR drones, airborne FOPEN systems and GPRs, low flying First Person View drones, and commercial grade social media HUMINT, ELINT, COMINT, OPSINT and earth observation commercial satellites with Optical, SAR and IR payloads sensors provide freely available and accurate geo-tagged 'top secret' imagery of the battlefield at low latency rates.

These sensors are continuously improving on latency, sensitivity, discrimination, and accuracy resulting in nearly or completely transparent battlefields where both belligerents can observe and monitor almost everything happening therein realtime. This pervasive and staring surveillance makes concealing concentrations of troops, armoured vehicles, artillery, MRLS, SEAD systems etc from adversaries almost impossible. Even the lone warrior is now visible, identifiable and traceable in real time. Unlike erstwhile operations, conducted by recce troops, that pushed up 'ground truth' information to battalion, brigade and division level analysis the new flow of tactical intelligence has been inverted whereby the commander may have much better real time situational awareness than his troops on location. Similarly, adversary information is also visible in much greater detail, not by soldiers at the tactical edge, but at the operational level by the Commander.

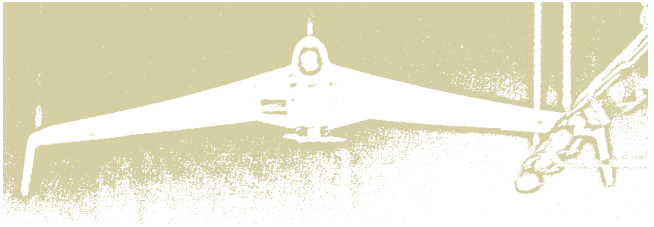
This highly precise real time locational intelligence enables artillery and air forces to accurately target contact forces and rear echelons formations simultaneously with a variety of precision strike munitions, loitering munitions, swarm drones and other kamikaze options etc.

The result is that some of the "fog of war" is lifted and has made the principle of surprise perhaps, a thing of the past. It has also revived the Commanders' dilemma to concentrate or disperse his forces.

Concentrations are more easily geo-tagged precisely due to dense footprints and are therefore vulnerable to devastating loss if the mutual support and defence in depth fails against precision strikes. Dispersing shrinks footprint but also creates logistics challenges and requires smaller and compact defensive positions such as camouflaged trenches and shelters which require appropriate mechanised tools and materials.



CONCEPT



Therefore, war fighting in a transparent battlefield now behaves a paradigm shift in equipping and training, revisiting concept of operations and the very design of battle as ground troops may not operate under air dominance, forward fortifications may be more easily detected, rear echelon formations may be accurately located enabling precision attack at the very commencement of conflict thereby neutralising the rear echelon support system that contact forces rely on. As commercial technologies becomes increasingly integrated into everyday 'warfare' the potential to cripple essential 'backbone support' war materiel grows exponentially. Power grids, transportation networks, and communication systems are all visible and vulnerable targets in future conflicts. Couple the transparent battlefield with deep fakes and cyberwarfare and the consequences are truly daunting.

This conference provides a platform for closer coordination with industry to design and develop suitable survivable and sustainable platforms, equipment and sensors that would better prepare the forces to fight and win wars in the transparent battlefield. It would also explore training systems and kits that would reskill forces - at contact and in the rear - to seamlessly dominate the adversary in this new paradigm of transparent warfare.

Officers of the armed forces and para-military forces, members of the military, space and defence industry, academia and think tanks will congregate together on one platform to ideate, discuss and develop new generation equipment – sensors, platforms, devices, tools and the training kits to dominate the transparent battlefield by generating clearer transparency of adversary forces and positions whilst maintaining deeper opacity of own locations and forces.



OUTLINE PROGRAMME

TIME : 0900 – 1800 HRS

0930 – 1045 Inaugural Session

Chief Guest, General Anil Chauhan, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, Chief of Defence Staff

Release of IDI Report on Transparent Warfare by Chief Guest

1045-1115 Walk Around and Media Interaction

1115-1230 Technical Session 1 – Equipping for Transparent Warfare

Moderated by Lieutenant General Tarun Kumar Aich, PVSM, AVSM, DCOAS (Strat)*

1230-1345 Technical Session 2 – Training Aids for a Transparent War

Moderated by Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra, AVSM, VSM, DCIDS (Ops)*

1430 – 1630 B2B meetings between industry and the services

1630 – 1730 Valedictory Session

Valedictory Address by Lt Gen Johnson P Mathew, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM CISC*

1730-1745 Media Interaction

PARTICIPANTS

Senior and middle –level officers from all three services and ministry of defence, para military forces, industry, academia, and media.

EXHIBITION

To provide users an opportunity to interact with industries developing technologies and products in the domain of drones, anti-drones, satellites, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance sensors and devices and cyber warfare systems.

Society for Aerospace Maritime and Defence Studies (SAMDeS)

SAMDeS is India's Key non profit think tank, which aims to promote multi-disciplinary research and analysis to inspire and inform the public and private policy discourse on national aerospace, defence, military and maritime Industry related matters. www.samdesindia.in

CHIEF GUEST

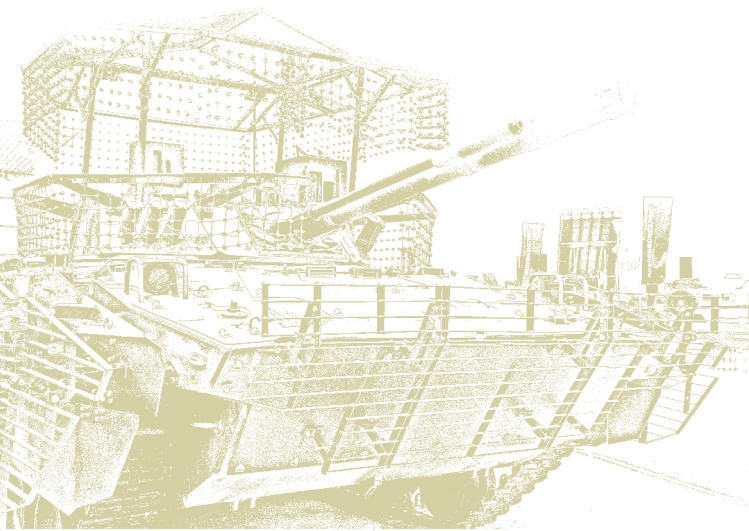


GENERAL ANIL CHAUHAN

PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, Chief of Defence Staff

Born on 18th May 1961, Gen Anil Chauhan was commissioned into the 11 Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army in 1981. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. In the rank of Maj General, the officer had commanded an Infantry Division in the critical Baramula sector in the Northern Command.

Later as Lt General, he commanded a corps in the North East and subsequently went to become the General officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command from September 2019 and held the charge until his retirement from the service in May 2021. In September 2022, he was appointed as the second Chief of Defence Staff.



MEET OUR EDITORS



ADMIRAL R K DHOWAN

PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd),

Admiral Dhowan, the Founder and Chairperson of SAMDeS, was the 22nd Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy. Post retirement after a distinguished career of 42 years in uniform, Admiral RK Dhowan (Retd) took over as the fifth Chairman of the National Maritime Foundation (NMF) and led various insightful researches on maritime issues.

IDI

(<https://indiandefenceindustries.in/>)

IDI is one the India's leading defence news portal, active since 2018, is known for its incisive news reportage and analysis. IDI has now ventured into publication of specialized reports and organizing seminar and conferences. In 2023 IDI published **UAV Warfare Report**.



ROHIT SRIVASTAVA

The editor of IDI has over 17 years of experience as a defence and strategic affairs reporter, editor, analyst and consultant. He has been a consultant with Government of India and now a media entrepreneur and author. He has presented papers in national and international seminars and lectured at various universities.



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