



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# Project UDBHAV

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**Why is in news?** Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched 'Project UDBHAV', during the inauguration of the Indian Military Heritage Festival

An ambitious effort for the integration of India's "ancient strategic acumen" into the contemporary military domain and **develop an "indigenous strategic vocabulary", rooted in India's "philosophy and culture"**, was launched under Project Udbhav.

'Udbhav', which translates to '**origin**' or '**genesis**', acknowledges the **vintage scriptures and writings of our Nation**, that span centuries in the past and contain profound knowledge that can benefit modern military strategies.

The objective of the Project is to **synthesize ancient wisdom with contemporary military practices**, forging a unique and holistic approach to address modern security challenges.

It is a **visionary initiative by the Indian Army** that seeks to **integrate age-old wisdom** with contemporary military pedagogy.

The ancient Indian knowledge system is rooted in a 5000 years old civilizational legacy, which has attached great value to knowledge; witnessed by its amazingly large body of intellectual texts, world's largest collection of manuscripts, thinkers and schools in so many domains of knowledge.

Project UDBHAV will **facilitate in-depth understanding of our knowledge systems and philosophies** and also aim to comprehend their enduring connect, relevance and applicability in the modern day.

It will facilitate emergence of previously under-explored thoughts and theories related to strategic thinking, statecraft and warfare, foster deeper understanding and contribute to enriching military training curricula.

Project UDBHAV is an **attempt to bridge the gap and sustain this knowledge creation**, of Indian heritage, in terms of grand strategy, strategic thinking and discussions on statecraft.

By marrying age-old wisdom with modern military pedagogy and operations, 'Project UDBHAV' **sets the stage for a robust, progressive and future-ready Indian Army** that not only resonates with the nation's historical military sagacity but is also attuned to the demands and dynamics of contemporary warfare and diplomacy.

With the launch of 'Project UDBHAV', the Indian Army **begins a new era**, signifying their commitment to nurture a future where our military might and strategic thinking are enhanced by our rich and strategic past.

Project Udbhav, a collaboration between the **Army and the United Service Institution of India (USI)**, a defence services think tank, was launched at the **first Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF)** being organised by the USI.

The objective of the IMHF is to **acquaint future thought leaders with the dynamics of comprehensive national security** with special emphasis on India's strategic culture, military heritage, education, modernisation of security forces and Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India), according to the USI.

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Despite a long and glorious military history and strategic culture going back many centuries, people are largely unaware of its different facets.

The festival seeks to **create a benchmark in the domain of public engagement with military history and heritage through interaction** while adhering to the goals for developing the Armed Forces in the 21st century.

The festival **aims to give a new thrust to the study of Indian military culture, traditions & history** and add tangible value to the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' initiative.

It also **provides a platform for discussing various contemporary issues** relating to India and the world pertaining to security, strategy and international relations.

As part of Project UDBHAV, a series of events and workshops, will dwell on various facets of our strategic culture and culminate in January 2024, with a publication, to document and institutionalise such knowledge.

### **Ancient references:**

Literature like **Chanakya's Arthashastra** underscores the **importance of strategic partnerships, alliances and diplomacy**, aligning with modern military practices such as international cooperation and soft power projection. Chanakya's teachings on statecraft and warfare are studied by various institutions the world over.

Similarly, the wisdom of **Thirukkural**, the classical Tamil text authored by Thiruvalluvar, the Tamil philosopher, **advocates ethical conduct in all endeavours, including warfare**. This **aligns with modern military codes of ethics of just war and principles of Geneva Convention**.

Apart from ancient texts, a **study of prominent military campaigns and leaders** is also important.

The **empires of Chandragupta Maurya, Ashoka and Cholas** flourished and expanded in influence, during their times. There are examples of **the Ahom Kingdom** too, which successfully ruled for 600 years, repeatedly defeating the Mughals.

The **Naval Battle of Saraighat in 1671, led by Lachit Borphukan**, stands as a stellar example of the use of clever diplomatic negotiations to buy time, employ psychological warfare, focus on military intelligence and exploiting the strategic weakness of the Mughals.

The tenets expounded by the ancient knowledge system, were also put to **practise by Chhatrapati Shivaji and Maharaja Ranjit Singh** who defeated numerically superior Mughal and Afghan invaders.

While Shivaji's **use of guerrilla tactics** is well acknowledged, less highlighted is his foresightedness in construction of a series of Naval Forts along the Western seaboard to ward off external threats.

An initiative in this research was earlier taken by the Army Training Command, who after delving into the ancient Indian Scriptures such as **Arthashastra, Nitisara by Kamandaki and Mahabharata** compiled the 'Compendium of 75 Stratagems'.

Other academic institutions like College of Defence Management have also **conducted a study to establish linkages between Indian Culture and the art of strategic thinking**. These studies will also provide valuable inputs for Project UDBHAV.