



CALL FOR PAPERS SYNERGY: FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE

**THEME: CIVIL-MILITARY FUSION IN DEFENCE:
THE WAY FORWARD**

CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction

Security and development are two sides of the same coin and one drives the other. The resources of any State are finite, and since millennia, **harmonising these two goals has been the centre-piece of the politico-military strategy** of ruling regimes across the globe. The term Civil-Military Fusion (CMF) refers to the combining of military and civilian processes and resources to increase a country's capacity to leverage its full national power, both in times of war and peace. In India, there has been sub-optimal resource exchange between the civil and military sectors as well as between industry and academia. It is vital to allow the private sector, which has abundant skill and resources, access to hitherto protected domains like high-end defence production, space, and cyber technologies. For India, a revolving door system similar to that used in the US would be extremely advantageous because it would align with the "Make in India" and "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" in the field of defence production. Early political ideologies in India inhibited entrepreneurship, business growth, and capacity building, which are the three main pillars of wealth creation. The foundation of CMF is the qualitative aggregation of capabilities and resources from both the civil and military spheres.

In the context of China, the CMF was started in China even before the People's Republic of China (PRC) was founded. More recently, a number of actions initiated by the Chinese President Xi Jinping have provided greater impetus to CMF in China. China has developed a reputation for using its academic institutions, scientists, students, and entrepreneurs to gather knowledge and intelligence to advance its strategic goals. The common issues of discussion in India's strategic discourse are cooperation between the three services and the necessity to include the military in the Government's higher decision-making processes. However, it is equally vital to let the civil and private resources, which has relevant skills and resources, access protected fields like defence manufacture, space exploration and cyber technologies, besides defence planning, concept, doctrine and capability development.

The Salience of CMF

Whether termed Whole-of-Nation (WoN), comprehensive, interagency, Civil-Military Integration or Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) approach, CMF is essential for achieving a country's national, regional and international goals and securing its interests. The foundation of CMF lies in the **universal acceptance of the truism** that *competitions, crisis and conflict resolution in the 21st Century, more than ever before, necessitate inter-agency harmonisation and fusion that goes beyond the DIME (diplomacy, Information, military and economy) Instruments of State Power*. Dynamic challenges of today are complex tapestry of political, ideological, demographic, historical, geographical and technological challenges. An effective multi-agency dynamic response mechanism entails synergised actions by varied actors, addressing a multitude of complex factors- adversaries (State and Non-State), social, economical, environmental, financial, in a resource constrained environment.



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A well thought-through and pragmatic institutional fusion of political, civil and military mechanisms is a sine-qua-non for addressing the challenges comprehensively. Both military and non-military actors must recognise and understand each others capabilities, limitations, roles, purpose and motivation. At all levels- strategic to tactical, the over-riding importance of a shared understanding, evolved through intimate collaborative consultation, liaison and execution cannot be over-emphasised. **Institutional civil-military collaboration, trust, information sharing and decision-making are the essence of smart power.** This fusion is more a concept and a guiding principle that facilitates an adaptive and flexible approach, than a rigid framework or a blueprint. The outcomes of CMF must necessarily be greater than the sum of the parts.

Political and Military Fusion

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A fusion between the political and military leadership has the ability to address the challenges in the sub-conventional domain and hybrid warfare challenges as well, entailing integration of all instruments of the national power and coordination of civil and military capabilities. A comprehensive unity of effort is required in order to conduct successful counter-terrorism operations. Sub-conventional warfare presupposes a whole of the nation of approach, where successful operations rest equally on civil-police intelligence and law enforcement agencies, bolstered by the military where necessary.

CMF in Diplomacy

The military arm of diplomacy remains a salient factor in enhancing a nation's national interest especially in context of its foreign policy. Effective use of the military instrument to buttress the foreign policy, is a nascent and belated development in the Indian context. The role of military goes beyond security and defence of the country against external threats and spills into avoidance of conflict and promotion of peace, through influence operations which build sustainable cooperative relationships and trust. In conducting and managing relations between states in their many dimensions, the core function of diplomacy, CMF has a significant role to play.



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CMF entails strategies like two plus two meetings where the defence minister and the minister of external affairs meet with their counter-parts from the various friendly nations. Under the Modi administration, the Government has proactively promoted strong security policies in response to the rapidly changing external security environment. The two plus two meetings also potentially bolster India's military capabilities through cooperation, collaboration and technologies. India's cooperation, in military domain, besides other areas, as a member of Quad with its strategic partners US, Japan and Australia is a clear manifestation of military diplomacy. Participation of military leaders together with diplomats in the rounds of talks to diffuse and resolve the ongoing military stand-off in Ladakh is another example.

CMF in Core Security and Defence Functions and Domains

Intelligence is a critical and integral part of national security. However, intelligence in India still suffers from a lack of coordination. While there are institutional frameworks to enhance collaboration, various intelligence agencies still function in silos. **Information is the weapon of the future and CMF in information warfare and influence is critical** for National Security. Besides, **domains like space, communications and electro-magnetic spectrum and cyberspace**, as well as critical capability development in **border management and Professional Military Education** are areas where CMF needs to be leveraged optimally.

CMF in Maritime Security

Warship building, submarines, weapons and systems, engines, machinery and repair facilities need civil military fusion. Apart from this the Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), surveillance, UAV and AI for ocean bed mapping are some areas where CMF can be leveraged, besides promotion of blue economy through synergised maritime security. Therefore, CMF strategies to address the challenges in the maritime domain are of utmost salience.

CMF in Infrastructure, Logistics and Sustenance

Logistics in its general sense means the detailed coordination of a complex operation involving many people, facilities and supplies. Future battles will become more complex, requiring exceptional organisational abilities and logistical inventiveness.

For the best use of combat power, a well-structured Joint Logistics Doctrine, utilising several logistics imperatives, and military infrastructure, including the physical and organisational domains, is required. With the knowledge that there is ample room for improvement in our current defence logistics systems, a swift transition to a strong and complete joint and integrated logistics architecture is unavoidable. Focus on vital infrastructure building through an integrated approach, right from a strong network of roads and railroads, airports, airfields, ports, inland waterways, power, energy, and transportation infrastructure, among other things, that make up the country's essential civil infrastructure, also serves the military purpose in a major way.



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CMF in Technologies and Research

Quantum computing, big data, semiconductors, 5G, advanced nuclear technology, aerospace technology and AI are some of the key technologies which are inherently dual use in nature and hence call for enhanced CMF, since they have both military and civilian applications. These include enhanced involvement of private businesses, focusing academic and research partnerships on military objectives, technological transfer, and information management. An increasing number of civilian businesses and organisations should be enabled to conduct military R&D and weapon development driven by a CMF strategy.

Sub-themes for Analysis and Research Papers

- The salience, theoretical and conceptual underpinnings of CMF
- CMF at the Grand and Military-Strategic levels
- Aligning National Security and CMF Strategies
- CMF in Diplomacy
- CMF- The US Model and Lessons for India
- CMF- Chinese Model and Lessons for India
- CMF to address challenges in the sub-conventional domain
- CMF in Space Capabilities
- CMF in Maritime Security
- CMF in Communications and Spectrum Management
- CMF in Border Management
- CMF in Cyberspace Domain.
- CMF in Intelligence
- CMF in Information Warfare
- CMF in ISR systems
- CMF in Logistics and Sustainance
- CMF in Harnessing Talent, Knowledge Management and Professional Military Education
- CMF in Infrastructure Development (Air, Rail, Roads, Ports etc)
- CMF in the Defence Industrial Eco System
- CMF through Import Substitution and Defence Export Aspirations
- CMF in R&D and Defence Innovation
- 4IR/Future Technology led CMF
- CMF in Military Standardisation



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