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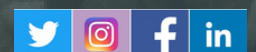
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ENHANCING NON-KINETIC COMPONENT IN TUNE WITH FUTURE WARFARE NEEDS

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**ORGANISED BY CENJOWS
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ORGANISED BY CENJOWS ON 09TH MAY 2024

In the series of Guest Lectures organized by CENJOWS, a pertinent lecture on **“Enhancing Non-Kinetic Component in Tune with Future Warfare needs”** was organized by CENJOWS and delivered by Brig Rajeev Ohri, VSM (Retd). The speaker highlighted the nuances of concepts of increasing non-kinetic component in Future Warfare. The speaker highlighted the issue that post 21st century, focus is growing on targeting the cognitive domain which is resulting in renewed focus from kinetic to non-kinetic domain. Majority of the conflicts are primarily in information domain. Therefore, it is very important to speak about the non-kinetic domains, its key elements and issues related to the non-kinetic components in tune with the future warfare needs.

The speaker further highlighted various components that can form part of the multi domain operations. The adversaries have always targeted the cognitive domain; however, the way of targeting has changed post 21st century. The domain includes components like air, land and sea that are part of the kinetic domain and were more relevant in the pre 21st century operations. All other components like space, cyber space, EM spectrum, public opinion, economy, diplomacy, politics and others are part of the non-kinetic domain. The speaker addressed that presently an aggressive competition is going on in all domains and combined result of all these domains is leading to the Comprehensive National Power. Therefore, synergy between all these domains by a nation will result in higher Comprehensive National Power. The speaker highlighted that domain like space, cyber space, EM spectrum, public opinion and influence can also be clubbed as part of the information domain in a larger sense. The efficiency of each domain is dependent on the information domain and the linkage of one domain to the other is also invariably through information domain. The speaker highlighted that presently the space for kinetic domain is getting limited and brought out the example of the recent Russia Ukraine War which as per him is a not limited to kinetic domain but is being fought in multiple domains in a continuum. The present conflict is not limited to land, air and sea alone but it is a combination of kinetic and non – kinetic domains where information operations are in a continuum and the leadership has to align with the new multi domain paradigm.

The speaker highlighted that we as a nation have to keep a balance between the civil military fusions. We have kept the strategic culture largely separate from the civil stream. Therefore, presently it is important that both the political and military leadership align them to the new multi domain paradigm. The political leadership has to understand that it is a national multi domain operational effort and their task is to synergize these domains. And the military has to understand that its role as a kinetic

force is not only limited to the operational and tactical level but they are also very important part of the multi domain operations. It is important to understand that there has to be a seamless connect between the national objectives with the strategic objectives, to operational and tactical objectives. The information domain is mainly a combination of communication and information technology and Cyberspace, Electromagnetic spectrum have evolved very late. The speaker eluded that in military the kinetic use of information domain may be counterproductive and we can't restrict ourselves to the linear thinking in terms of arms and services and it is time that we think out of the box.

The speaker highlighted that it is time that we need to talk about capability rather than technology in each domain. He came up with an out of box concept of **Protect**, **Control** and **Denial** for each domain. There has been some thought process in our country where domains mentioned by the speaker are identified by our government and a national critical information infrastructure is presently in place. Defence is part of the NCII and is interlinked with other domains and therefore, the efficiency of other domain will impact defence capability. The speaker further highlighted about the defense information flow. The defence information flows through our Army, Air Force, Navy data networks. But the operational and tactical information flows over the air and we work on air gaps. He recommended that there is a need for defence information flow to be through air. The speaker also highlighted that we need to understand the importance of amalgamating the concept of compute with communication. The way technologies are progressing we need to keep pace with it. The speaker highlighted that we really need to protect our spectrum well as it is costlier than the Gold.

The speaker highlighted certain recommendations in his talk. He advised for development of national level information domain which will bring recognition to this domain. There is need for synergy between these multiple agencies that are doing work in different areas and different domains running after technologies. A similar organization needs to be evolved within the defence forces so that there is a seamless connect from the strategic to the operational and tactical. The speaker advocated the formation of Information Command as a non-kinetic force of the defense forces which needs to be implemented.