



**RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR**  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Defence  
Member of Consultative Committee on Defence  
Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps  
Co-Chairman, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, Bangalore Urban District  
Vice Chairman, National Military Memorial Management Trust, Bangalore

29 April, 2016

Dear Raksha Mantriji,

**Sub: Continued delay in implementing Military Modernisation Plans & Reforms**

I write to you on the continued delay in implementing military modernisation plans and reforms. These have become obvious as part of the engagement of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence.

1. Permanent Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CoSC)

As you may be aware, in 2001, the creation of a Chief of Defence Staff was first recommended by a Group of Ministers. Later, the Naresh Chandra Committee recommended a Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee in 2012. However, this higher defence reform remains to be implemented.

2. 17 Corps/ Mountain Strike Corps

The decision to raise 17 Corps, meant specifically for India's 3,500-km border with China was approved in 2013. Since then, there has been limited progress on the front and this is yet to get budgetary support.

3. Space, Cyberspace and Special Operations Commands

As you may recall, the Hon'ble Prime Minister's address to the combined Commanders in 2014 and 2015 emphasised the need to retool the military to fight the wars of the future. However, on this front, the cyber warfare command, space command and a special operations command are all pending cabinet approval.



The recent attacks in Pathankot, Jammu & Kashmir and in the North East have shown that the nature of security threats facing our country are rapidly changing and require our Armed Forces to respond nimbly, flexibly and rapidly, and deploy forces in Air, Land and Sea simultaneously, in an integrated manner. It is precisely for this purpose of a rapid and integrated response to national security threats that the above reforms and modernisation plans are urgently required.

I urge you to take necessary action to fast track these critical defence reforms and modernisations plans. I am available for any further discussions on these issues at your convenience.

Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri Manohar Parrikar  
Hon'ble Minister of Defence  
Government of India  
New Delhi