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**Once Upon A Time**

**GENERAL BC JOSHI MEMORIAL LECTURE**

# Reduced share in defence budget making it 'difficult to move with nation which wants to become \$5 trillion economy': Navy Chief

**SUSHANT KULKARNI**  
 PUNE, AUGUST 26

NAVY CHIEF Admiral Karambir Singh on Monday said that Navy's reduced share in the defence budget was making it very difficult "to move with the nation which wants to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024 and give it impetus on the maritime front".

Admiral Singh also said that while India offers to help many other countries in building their naval capabilities, it has remained "poor on delivery". The Navy Chief batted for a Defence Diplomacy Fund to enable India to fulfil such commitments. He said a proposal for this fund was under consideration of the government.

Admiral Singh was delivering a lecture on 'Indian Ocean - Changing Dynamic - Maritime Security Imperatives for India' as part of a series held in the memory of late General BC Joshi, the 17th Chief of Army Staff of India.

"One of the challenges is long-term budgetary support required to build Naval capability. For example, building a ship may take years to complete. So long-term budgetary projections and understanding of resource envelope are important to plan comprehensive capability development. Specifically in case of Indian Navy, we were 18 per cent of Defence budget in 2012-13, now we are down to 13 per cent. This way we find it very difficult to move with the nation which wants to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024 and give it impetus on the maritime front," Admiral Singh said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly talked about the goal of making India a USD 5 trillion economy in the next five years.

Asked if the budgetary cut had affected any of its projects, the Navy Chief said, "Because of



Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh in Pune on Monday. Pavan Khengre

the budgetary allocation we had to do a little bit of revamp of the procurement plan. So yes, it has to a limited extent." He was interacting with reporters on the sidelines of the event.

Earlier, while highlighting that maritime security by its very nature involves a large number of stakeholders, Admiral Singh said, "...It includes Navy, Coast Guard, state governments, Director General Shipping, DG Light Houses, Fisheries, Ministries Home Affairs, Earth Sciences, Petroleum and many more. Coordinating the efforts of these stakeholders is a humongous task..."

Referring to India's defence

diplomacy in Indian Ocean Region, he said, "India is looked at as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region. We go to various countries that require help in terms of capability building. We make a lot of promises but we are poor on delivery. There was a task force on defence diplomacy which recommended that there should be a defence diplomacy fund. So, if the Army Chief goes to a particular place and says certain equipment will be given, when he comes back he shouldn't be fighting for next two years get the items delivered. It should be done quickly. Defence diplomacy fund will cut down the

time between promise and delivery..."

Admiral Singh, who assumed the charge of Chief of Naval Staff in May this year, added, "The non-military marine capability development is going a little slow. Another challenge is absorption of new technology in our sector which has not kept pace with global standards and best practices. This is relevant to weapons, sensor technologies, niche equipment, ship construction technologies and adsorption of new verticals, like artificial intelligence and quantum computing, etc. The overall maritime consciousness and awareness among the large

polity needs concerted attention..."

Highlighting that resource competition is also a challenge, he said, "There are large resources in our Exclusive Economic Zone, which is two-thirds of our landmass. Exploration, energy, fish, oil and the seabed, everything is ours but we have not yet harnessed much of this. We need to have a comprehensive plan to harness the potential of the ocean. Other nations have moved quickly on the issues of delimitation of maritime boundaries as well as filing claim for extended continental shelves, which we haven't done as yet."

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**ADMIRAL KARAMBIR SINGH**  
 NAVY CHIEF

**EXPLAINED**  
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**Lowest rise in budget allocation among armed forces**

THE INDIAN Navy has seen lowest rise in budget allocation among the three armed forces since 2012-13.

If the budget allocations for 2012-13 and 2019-20 are compared, the Army's allocation has increased by 133 per cent, Air Force's by 62 per cent and Navy's by 55 per cent.

## 'Navy prepared to thwart JeM's underwater plans'

**SUSHANT KULKARNI**  
 PUNE, AUGUST 26

AN "UNDERWATER wing" of Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) is training people to carry out attacks but the Indian Navy is fully prepared to thwart any such attempt, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh said Monday.

"We have received an intelligence that an underwater wing of Jaish-e-Mohammed is training people to carry out attacks from water, but we are fully prepared and are keeping close vigil. We would like to assure people that we will thwart any such attempt," he said while answering a question on the changing tactics of terrorist outfits and the India Navy's response to it.

All stakeholders in coastal security are ensuring that there is no intrusion from the sea, he added.

Admiral Singh said after the 26/11 terror attack on Mumbai in 2008, coastal security construct was put in place and the Navy is overall in-charge of maritime security. "Indian Navy along with the Coast Guard, Maritime police, the state government and other stakeholders are making sure that there will not be any intrusion from the sea," he said.

Referring to intelligence inputs on six Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists who reportedly infiltrated into India via Sri Lanka, Admiral Singh said, "We have got input that they had entered and that some of them have been arrested. They are being interrogated."

Asked how India was countering the increased presence of

The Navy chief said as per intelligence inputs an underwater wing of JeM was training people to carry out attacks from water

China in the Indian Ocean Region, he said, "I will not use the word counter. We are watching the progress. The Chinese want to become a global power, so they will come into Indian Ocean Region. But we are watching them. There should be nothing against our national interest, otherwise we will have to act."

The Navy chief was in Pune to deliver a lecture on 'Indian Ocean - Changing Dynamic - Maritime Security Imperatives for India' as part of the series held in the memory of former Army General BC Joshi.

The lecture was organised at Dhanwantari Hall of the Armed Forces Medical College and was attended by Southern Army Commander Lt Gen SK Saini and a large number of serving officers of the Armed Forces and veterans.

In 1995, Headquarters Southern Command and the University of Pune jointly instituted an annual lecture series to honour the memory of former Army General BC Joshi in recognition of his contribution to higher education and furthering University-Armed Forces interaction programme. The lecture is organised by the Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, Savitribai Phule Pune University.

