

Editorial on Defence Innovation

Bembady Bharathi*

Department of Political Science, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

EDITORIAL

The language of innovation is frequently framed in terms of gaining an advantage. However, many areas of progress are much more likely to sustain our ability to compete than to provide a meaningful edge. By framing them as a true gain, you risk exaggerating their significance – and, ironically, giving yourself a reason not to perform them. Since the gain isn't seen as something we have to have. In reality, innovation is more about staying on par with competitors and partners who are also improving their capabilities. Although less exhilarating, it is also more difficult to reject the need for such development—because it implies that we may lose.

While innovation is crucial, invention is where true competitiveness is found. Armed forces can really extend their intellectual wings in the realm of invention, as long as they receive sound advice to keep them from going too near to the sun. It's a place where fresh ideas for how operations might be generated so that we may behave in new ways rather than just doing things better and better. It is in this region that military thought may truly drive technological growth, forcing it to explore new territory while also incorporating cutting-edge concepts from other sectors. Innovation, on the other hand, is still based on spotting opportunities in other people's creations; it

is unlikely to provide us an advantage because the technology being exploited is available to everyone.

The production and use of new products, services, and processes can be defined as innovation. This can be the development of a new technology, product, method, or service, or the adaptation of an existing technology to a new challenge or topic. Both the initial investment risk and the long-term investment risk are reduced when innovative technologies from other disciplines are introduced into the defence sector. However, innovation isn't only about coming up with new ideas; it's also about providing added value to customers. As a result, the primary goal of defence innovation should be to improve military capabilities.

Innovation can be viewed in a variety of ways in this context. A disruptive innovation is one that fundamentally alters the way things are done ('of doing things') and hence has a large impact on the market, business economic activity, and, in the defence sector, the way armed forces function. It employs enablers (technical and non-technical) and new paradigms to achieve a level of performance that, over time, considerably transcends the constraints of typical evolutionary progress. Incremental innovations, in contrast to disruptive innovations, improve or enhance the performance of existing products, services, processes, organisations, or approaches.

Correspondence to: Bembady Bharathi, Department of Political Sciences, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Telangana, India. E-mail: bharathisinu2007@gmail.com

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