

Integrated Battle Groups (IBG)

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In news— Consultations on creation of Integrated Battle Groups have been compiled recently.

About Integrated Battle Groups (IBG)-

- The **purpose of restructuring Army's existing formations into integrated battle groups** was to **have forces which are lean, agile and tailor-made** which would afford the commanders the flexibility and more options for their employment in the respective theatres to achieve the desired outcomes.
- IBGs are smaller, meaner, self-contained fighting units of the Indian Army consisting of elements of air power, artillery, armour etc.
- **The concept of IBG has already been test-bedded by the Army's 9 Corps** and was later validated by the 17 Mountain Strike Corps in its exercises.
- **Each IBG would be tailor made based on Threat, Terrain and Task and resources will be allotted based on the three T's.**
- The idea is for them to be light with centralised logistics and be able to mobilise within 12 -48 hrs based on the location.
- While a **Command is the largest static formation of the Army spread across a defined geography, a Corps is the largest mobile formation.**
- Typically, **each Corps has about three Divisions.**
- **The IBGs will also be defensive and offensive in nature.**
- Late Gen. Bipin Rawat as Army Chief had initiated four major studies to undertake a comprehensive transformation of the force. These include:
 - Restructuring of Army Headquarters.
 - Force restructuring including creation of IBGs.

- The cadre review of officers and
- Review of the terms and conditions of Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks.
- The aim was holistic integration to enhance the operational and functional efficiency, optimise budget expenditure, facilitate force modernisation and address aspirations.
- After the terrorist attack on Parliament in 2001, **the Army formulated a proactive doctrine known as 'Cold Start'** to launch swift offensive but its existence was consistently denied in the past.
- Its existence was acknowledged for the first time by Gen. Rawat in January 2017.