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Indian Army Modernizes Force Structure with Next-Gen Units

July 27, 2025

– Categories: General News



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In a major announcement during Kargil Vijay Diwas in Drass, Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi unveiled structural reforms aimed at transforming the Army into a more agile, tech-enabled force. The creation of new integrated combat formations, reportedly called Rudra Brigades, Bhairav Battalions, and Divyastra Artillery Units, signals a strategic shift toward enhanced joint operations and advanced battlefield technology.

Speaking at the Kargil War Memorial, General Dwivedi stressed the urgency of modernization to meet evolving threats. “We are rapidly advancing as a transformed,

modern, and future-ready force,” he said, underlining the Army’s focus on combat readiness along India’s sensitive borders.

The proposed Rudra Brigades, named after a fierce form of Lord Shiva, are set to bring together infantry, mechanized units, artillery, special forces, and unmanned aerial systems under a unified command. Designed for autonomous, multi-domain operations, these formations will have tailored logistical support to enable swift deployment across varied terrain. Defense observers view the concept as a response to increased threats on India’s northern and western fronts.

The Divyastra Artillery Units, according to senior defense officials, will incorporate loitering munitions, commonly known as kamikaze drones, that combine surveillance and strike capabilities. These systems offer precise, real-time targeting, especially in high-altitude regions where conventional artillery may be less effective.

Also in development are the Bhairav Battalions, elite light commando units intended for rapid-response operations, including counterterrorism, border skirmishes, and urban warfare. These battalions will reportedly integrate drone platoons for reconnaissance and target acquisition, enhancing situational awareness and mobility.

The Army is also set to induct domestically developed air defense systems to bolster protection against drones, low-flying missiles, and helicopters. This move supports the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, which promotes self-reliance in defense manufacturing and reduces dependence on foreign arms suppliers.

Military analysts interpret the restructuring as a practical adaptation to lessons drawn from recent conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, where speed, electronic warfare, and unmanned systems have played decisive roles. The emphasis on integration and flexibility positions the Indian Army to confront hybrid threats that combine conventional and non-traditional tactics.

Announcing the initiative on Kargil Vijay Diwas added significance. The day commemorates India’s 1999 military victory in reclaiming key heights in Kargil, and General Dwivedi used the occasion to reinforce the Army’s commitment to preparedness. “As we commemorate the valour of our heroes, we must ensure the Indian Army remains unmatched, not just in courage but in capability and readiness,” he stated.

The Army's new structure reflects a forward-looking strategy designed to meet future challenges with greater speed, precision, and operational independence.