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Indian Army Launches 'Agnishodh' to Prepare for 5th–Gen Warfare

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The Indian Army has unveiled *Agnishodh*, a new initiative aimed at accelerating defense innovation and equipping the force for the emerging challenges of fifth–generation warfare. The program was launched by Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, who outlined the changing nature of combat and the military's need to integrate advanced technologies with traditional battlefield operations.

Speaking at the launch event, General Dwivedi said the wars of the future would require soldiers (“boots”) to work in close coordination with autonomous systems and artificial intelligence-driven platforms (“bots”). He stressed that modern military engagements are moving beyond conventional battlefields to incorporate non-contact warfare, psychological dominance, and real-time intelligence capabilities.

“Future combat will not only be fought on land, sea, and air but also across cyber, space, and information domains,” General Dwivedi said. “Our preparations must reflect this multi-domain reality.”

The *Agnishodh* initiative will focus on accelerating the development and deployment of indigenous defense technologies, working in collaboration with start-ups, research institutions, and the private sector. This approach is intended to shorten innovation cycles, enhance adaptability, and ensure that the armed forces remain prepared for rapidly evolving threats.

Fifth-generation warfare is characterized by a blend of conventional, irregular, and cyber operations, often conducted in ways that blur the lines between peace and conflict. It involves the use of advanced information warfare, artificial intelligence, drones, robotics, and psychological operations to influence both the battlefield and public perception.

General Dwivedi highlighted that maintaining an advantage in this environment would require not only advanced hardware but also superior decision-making speed. Real-time intelligence gathering and data analysis will be central to achieving dominance in such warfare scenarios.

Defense analysts say the Indian Army’s move reflects a global trend in military modernization, where the focus is shifting toward agility, adaptability, and integrated systems capable of operating across multiple domains. By prioritizing innovation and technological integration, *Agnishodh* aims to ensure that the force remains effective against both state and non-state adversaries.

The initiative is also aligned with India’s *Atmanirbhar Bharat* (self-reliant India) policy, which seeks to reduce dependence on foreign defense imports by fostering homegrown solutions. Officials expect *Agnishodh* to drive collaboration between the armed forces and domestic technology firms, opening new opportunities for defense research, manufacturing, and exports.

While specific operational projects under *Agnishodh* have not yet been disclosed, the program is expected to include advancements in autonomous systems, secure communication networks, unmanned aerial platforms, and data-driven decision-support tools. The Army will also explore training modules to prepare personnel for high-tech combat environments.

By launching *Agnishodh*, the Indian Army signals its readiness to adapt to the realities of twenty-first-century conflict, combining traditional operational strength with cutting-edge technology to safeguard national security in an increasingly complex global landscape.