

FIVE YEARS OF SIMULATION FROM VISION TO OPERATIONAL READINESS

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Quick Summary

For the Sep Newsletter nothing can be more relevant than to revisit a **defining Policy** that got promulgated in Sep itself, albeit five years back, and take a moment to analyse **whether we have achieved what was envisioned**. This Newsletter makes an attempt.

A Defining Moment

It was 23 Sep 2021 when the MoD promulgated its forward-looking policy titled **Framework of Simulator for Armed Forces**. In this Policy, the MoD not only showed its strong conviction that simulator-based training is a must for our Armed Forces, it demonstrated a commitment to usher a 'simulator culture' in the Forces.

A Laudable Vision

The vision on which this Policy was based said it all - **To implement simulation based training across all military domains** to achieve cost effective, efficient, safe, fast-paced and smart training. To realize the above vision, the Policy aimed to **lay down a framework** that could be implemented by Forces



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The Framework

The above framework was couched in very clear and actionable objectives. In order to achieve the goal of reducing live equipment utilisation with enhanced induction of simulators, the **Govt. directed that all Capability Plans must cater for phased induction of simulators** and all procurement cases must **factor the requirement of simulators** at the planning stage of procurement itself.

That is all very good, but where are we five years down the line? Here is a glimpse.

From Nadir Upwards

Starting from a stage when **simulators used to be an 'afterthought'** rather than an upfront priority in any procurement case; and from a stage when upon the slightest requirement of a 'cost cut' simulator aggregate always got the 'first axe', **we have moved on quite some far**.

There is definitely a growing attitudinal shift as well as institutional awareness across the leadership hierarchy of the Armed Forces that **simulator-based training is an absolute** must if combat readiness of the force is to be kept razor-sharp.

Stark realities driving the change

Many stark realities have also driven this change of perception-prohibitive **time and cost penalties** of field-mode combat training, **sky-rocketing costs of live ammunition** dwarfing training scales to such levels where achieving even the basic combat readiness is becoming difficult with ammunition at hand, shrinking field firing ranges... to mention only a few.

On the flip side, many **combat virtues of simulators have been rapidly recognized**. With cutting edge technologies riding on the enabling wings of AI, simulators promise effective training that is both realistic and cost effective. What technology can deliver today is unimaginable - **a trainee cannot tell the difference between real and simulated** - that is the level of immersive training today.



Miles to go

While all the above is good news there are still a **lot of challenges**. Against an ideal simulator adoption goal of 50-60%, the percentage of simulator induction in our forces hovers around 15%. Framework Policy has stipulated **Service HQs to identify new areas of application of simulators** and enhance exploitation of simulation in all facets of operations, maintenance, administration, medical science and work services.

It is hoped that implementation of this policy direction will surely push up our simulator penetration percentages several notches. Also for the call are the **procurement delays** and a need for a greater percentage of conventional field trials getting done on simulation processes as envisaged in the DAP 2026.

Green Training - A new hope

Besides all the above, **The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI)**, a national level policy research organization specializing in energy, environmental sustainability and climate change **has added a totally new dimension**. Its independent Study has shown that simulators not only address all the training challenges faced by the Forces, these have a **potential to save thousands of crores by way of reduced emissions of Green House Gases (GHGs)** that are emitted due to firing of live ammunition and burning of fossil fuel during conventional training.



TERI Study has called simulator-based training as '**Green Training**'. It says that **Indian Armed Forces are sitting on a transformational opportunity**. By scaling up simulator-based training the military can save over 1000 Cr annually, reduce fuel burn, cut ammunition costs, slash logistic expenditure and free up thousands of man hours across all combat arms without compromising battlefield readiness. In sum '**Green Training**' will achieve the twin aims of enhanced combat readiness besides delivering substantial savings.

The above Study Report was launched on 26 May 2026. The same was received very well by all, be it stakeholders, military experts or the general public.

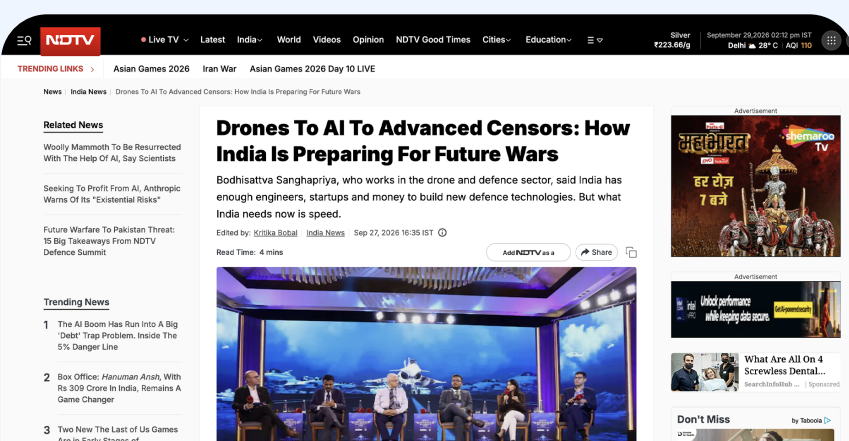
Like we said, great going... but miles to go

We close this Newsletter by stating what is now a well-accepted reality -

'Green Training is not only a service requirement; it is a National Imperative'

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