



(Photo: ANI)

Indian Army's impending Mechanised Revolution

The Indian Military is at the cusp of a revolution. In the 2020s, the Indian Military is undertaking its biggest transformation yet. It is revamping everything from recruitment schemes and fighting formations at the highest level to practically all old hardware. Such a period was seen almost half a century ago as well, when the modernisation of the 1980s was undertaken by the likes of General Krishnaswamy Sundarji. Not only did all service arms get new hardware, they also spent that tumultuous decade integrating them into their operational plans and developing operating procedures with them. That process transformed the Indian Army as we know it today.

First Revolution

The Indian Army's first mechanised revolution came in the aftermath of 1965 Indo-Pakistan war. A need to mechanise our infantry arose, and to mitigate it the first APCs for the Indian Army, the OT62 TOPAS and OT64 were ordered in 1967 and 1969 respectively. OT62s came in 1969 and by 1970, 10 battalions were equipped with the type. By 1971, the deliveries of about 300 ordered OT64s

started coming in. They would go on to participate in the 1971 war, with OT64s present in the battle and subsequent liberation of Jessore. Seeing the impressive performance of OT62/64s in the 1971 war, the Army finally decided to double down and ordered about 800 BTR 60PBs starting from 1975 and later BMP-1s.

This was followed by the first revolution in manoeuvre warfare. The importance of armoured and mechanised units was pushed by General KV Krishna Rao, and later

perfected by General K Sundarji who developed the ideas of RAPIDs and RAMIDs and emphasised the importance of mechanisation and mechanised infantry within the army's broader strategic goals.

Second Revolution

The second mechanised revolution in the Indian Army happened when the Army finally raised Mechanised Infantry as a separate regiment on 2 April 1979, and the regiment was equipped with new APCs which were



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