

The Indian SOF rewind: 2024



Navy Chief meeting a MARCOS detachment. Photo by IN on X.

The Indian ‘Special Operations’ have touched a new height in the past decade, of which the Fiscal Year of 2024 have been very crucial. We saw some major operations, demonstration and joint-exercises, in which both our SF’s and SOF’s displayed their up to the mark professionalism and operational preparedness.

Before going through the highlights of the operations, demonstrations and joint-exercises showcased by the Indian Special Operations Forces, let me take through a short but brief introduction of our SFs and SOFs.

First of all, what’s an SF and what’s an SOF? And what’s the difference between the two?

The term ‘SOF’ stands for Special Operations Forces, it is a type of force used for performing only a select few roles and undertake missions which are well defined in the respective mandates.

The term ‘SF’ stands for Special Forces, a SF is a force which is a highly trained and versatile organisation. It can

be used in any kind of environment and can perform all the tasks which a SOF can perform but not vice-versa.



PARA SF operative. Photo from Open Source.