

Army to trim forces to better its armoury

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New Delhi: Army Chief General Bipin Rawat held a brainstorming session with top generals on Tuesday, to draw a road map to trim forces aimed at reducing expenditure on salaries that can help in enhancing military capabilities.

The idea is to achieve an ideal 60:40 ratio for payment of salaries and capital acquisitions for the Army, sources said. Currently 83 per cent of budget is for salaries and only 17 per cent is earmarked for buying arms and ammunition.

The exercise is expected to save the Army Rs 6,000-7,000 crore annually, according to estimates.

“Reduction of manpower to save on salaries and pensions will aid modernisation plans of the Army,” said an Army official.

The plan is to cut down the total Army strength by nearly 1.5 lakh from the existing



Bipin Rawat —PTI

12.6 lakh by restructuring different wings of the Army including the staff posted at the headquarters in New Delhi.

The Army commanders and the chief took a close look at findings that are likely to take final shape next month at the Army commanders' conference. This is the biggest reform since independence, the Indian Army plans to undertake.

Clubbing of different branches in the Army headquarters, functions of which overlap, is being considered. This is being planned to cut down on duplicity of responsibilities.