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ARMED FORCES

The soldiers are faced with a variety of challenges including the difficult areas like icy glaciers, sandy deserts, mountainous jungles and the vast seas. They willingly face these challenges and are prepared to make any sacrifice for the Nation.

The values of comradeship and brotherhood pervade all ranks of the army. The soldiers lay down their lives for the three Ns - Naam (name or honour), Namak (loyalty to the Nation) and Nishan (insignia or flag of the unit/regiment or Nation). They exhibit valour when fighting the enemy. There is no discrimination on the basis of caste, religion or any other aspect. This ensures team spirit and unity. They usually choose death over dishonour. The forthrightness, integrity and dignity forms the ethos of every soldier.

In this lesson we shall learn about the different Commands of the Indian Army in greater detail as well as the Ethos of the armed forces. Before we look at the organisational structure we shall examine the ethos of the Indian Army.



Objectives

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

- explain the role and organisational structure of Indian Army;
- describe the role and structure of Indian Navy and
- explain the role and organisational structure of Air Force.

4.1 Role of the Indian Army

The Indian Army mainly has the task to protect the territorial integrity of our country and safeguard its sovereignty from external aggression or internal disorder. The army also provides assistance to the civil administration in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. The Indian Army also participates in UN peace keeping missions by sending troops. The Indian Army maintains a high standard of operational preparedness to play any of the roles mentioned here.

Structure and Role of the Forces



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4.1.1 Structure of the Indian Army

The Indian Army is organised into 7 commands with 6 operational commands and one training command. These are Western Command, Eastern Command, Northern Command, Southern Command, South Western Command, Training Command, Central Command.



Fig 4.1 : Western Command (Headquarters - Chandimandir)



Fig 4.2 : Eastern Command (Headquarters - Kolkata)



Fig 4.3 : Northern Command (Headquarters - Udhampur)



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Fig 4.4 : Southern Command (Headquarters - Pune)



Fig 4.5 : South-Western Command (Headquarters - Jaipur)



Fig 4.6 : Training Command (Headquarters - Shimla) - It is the only non operational command as it has all service training institute under it.



Fig 4.7 : Central Command (Headquarters - Lucknow)

Each Command is headed by a General Officer Commanding in Chief (GOC-in-C). His rank is Lieutenant General.

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4.1.2 Sub Divisions of the Army

The Army has further sub divisions where the soldiers are grouped into a fighting force. The combat arms are infantry and armed corps others are combat support arms and services unit. Infantry is organised as under:

Section : 10 soldiers make a Section

Platoon - 3 sections make a Platoon headed by a JCO (Junior Commissioned Officer)

Company - Three Platoons make a Company headed by a Company Commander who is a Major or Lt.Colonel in rank.

Battalion - Four companies make a Battalion. This is the main fighting unit of infantry and is commanded by a Battalion Commander in the rank of Colonel.

Brigade - Three battalions form a Brigade and commanded by Brigade Commander, a Brigadier rank officer.

Division - Three to four Brigades make up a Division headed by a Major General who is termed GOC (Division Commander). The Indian Army today has 37 divisions including Infantry, Mountain, Armoured, Artillery and Re-organised Army Plains Infantry Division or RAPIDS.

Corps - Three to four divisions make up a Corps. A Lieutenant General heads the Corp as GOC (Corps Commander).

Command- Each command is led by General Officer Commanding-in-Chief with the rank of Lieutenant General. India has 7 Commands of which six are operational commands and one training command called ARTRAC (Army Training Command)

India also has tri aservices commands, namely the Strategic Forces Command, Integrated Defense Staff (IDS) and the Andaman and Nicobar Command. These are headed by Army Navy and Air Force officers on a rotational basis.

4.1.3 Organization of the Indian Army

Indian Army is organized in two parts - Combat Arms and Services.

Combat Arms

This is the fighting forces of the Army. This comprises :

1. **Armoured Corps** - This has replaced the cavalry or horses in Indian Army. It is one of the main fighting arms of the modern army. It consists of tanks as its main weapons. They also provide vital support to the Infantry (foot soldiers) by providing cover when they are attacking the enemy positions.
2. **Mechanized Infantry** - Mechanised Infantry is the latest arm of the Indian Army.



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3. **Infantry** - These are fighting troops who attack and occupy captured ground. It is the most important and largest branch of the fighting forces in the Indian Army. It is supported by combat support arms which are:-

- **Artillery** - The guns that provide fire power are under the Artillery. They are used to destroy the defences of the enemy and give infantry fire cover to capture enemy positions.
- **Corps of Engineers** - Also known as Sappers, these are Engineers who perform the operations like laying and clearing of mines, constructing bridges, roads and handling explosives. Their motto is SARVATRA or Everywhere. They are very important in increasing the mobility of the army units.
- **Corps of Army Air Defence** - The Air Defence has become imminent after the change in the character of the battlefield with the introduction of aircraft.

Their motto is Akashe Shatrun Jahi (Defeat the Enemy in the Sky).

- **Army Aviation Corps** - Adopting the motto Suveg Va Sudrid, the youngest of the Indian armed corps has helicopter which can operate in different terrains, climatic conditions and other challenges. It can utilise the ability to observe the enemy deep inside its own territory.
- **Corps of Signals** - In this information age, armies have to strengthen existing information communication and technology networks, ensure connectivity to soldiers in remote locations and provide cyber security in both peace time and in war. This is fulfilled by the Corps of Signals. Their motto is Teevra Chaukas or Intense Alertness.

Services: Apart from the Combat and Combat support Arms, the remaining army is organised under the services. Their main task is to provide logistical (arms, ammunition, rations etc.) material to the army.

The Services include the following departments:

1. Army Service Corps
2. Army Medical Corps
3. Army Dental Corps
4. Army Ordnance Corps
5. Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers
6. Remount and Veterinary Corps
7. Military Farms Service
8. Army Education Corps
9. Corps of Military Police

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10. Pioneer Corps
11. Army Postal Service Corps
12. Intelligence Corps
13. Judge Advocate General's Department
14. Military Nursing Service



Intext Questions

4.1

1. Explain the meaning of three Ns close to a soldier's heart?
2. Name the place where Training Command of the Army is located. Explain its task.
3. What is meant by a Battalion?
4. Explain the role of Corps of Army Air Defence.

4.2 Indian Navy

The Indian Navy's motto is (शं नो वरुणः) or May the Lord of the Oceans be auspicious unto us. It is bestowed with the task of safeguarding the seas that surround peninsular India.

4.2.1 Role of the Navy

There are four roles which not only includes war fighting at sea but increasingly disaster relief, rescue and humanitarian assistance.

The Navy is not only mandated to exercise naval power against the enemy but also to defend Indian territory and maritime trade.

Naval Diplomacy is an important role of Navy where it furthers international cooperation through joint naval exercises, and ship visits to friendly countries.

Constabulary relates to the ability of the Navy to maintain law and order at sea by preventing crimes like piracy.

Benign role - Though the Navy is a military unit it performs important non military tasks too. These include:

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief like shipping people away from troubled areas; transporting essential supplies to places affected by natural calamities like floods, cyclones and earthquakes;

Search and Rescue (SAR) of boats and personnel in distress;

Hydrographic surveys and mapping of coastal and ocean territory for other countries too.

4.2.2 The Structure of Indian Navy

The Indian Navy is divided into three commands



Fig 4.9 : Western Naval Command with headquarters at Mumbai



Fig 4.10 : Eastern Naval Command having headquarters at Vishakapatnam.



Fig 4.11 : Southern Naval Command with headquarters at Kochi.

Each Naval Command is headed by a Flag Officer Commanding in chief (FOC-in-C). His rank is Vice Admiral.

4.2.3 Organisation of The Indian Navy

The Navy is broadly divided into the following branches:



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- Executive
- Engineering
- Logistics
- Education
- Medical

The Officers of the Navy will be employed in a variety of roles requiring specialised knowledge and training in the various branches namely executive, communication, navigation, logistics etc.



Intext Questions

4.2

1. Write the motto of Indian Navy.

2. At which place is the headquarters of the Eastern Naval Command located?

3. Describe the different tasks under the benign role of the Indian Navy.

4.3 The Indian Air Force

The Indian Air Force is the fourth largest in the world. It consists of modern aircraft and a well trained flying force that can safeguard the skies for our nation's security.

4.3.1 Role of the Indian Air Force

The main role of the Indian Air Force is to secure Indian air space and protect it from intruders. The Air Force is also tasked to undertake air warfare during conflicts. They also play a vital role in deploying troops to remote areas and assisting in logistics. They provide air support to the other arms namely Navy and Army in their operations too.

From a humanitarian point of view, rescue of civilians in times of crises and disaster is also a principal role of the Indian Air Force. Air lifting or evacuating Indian nationals from other countries in times of civil war or other calamities is also performed by the IAF.

President, Vice President or Prime Minister, Defence Minister are also provided transport facilities by Indian Air Force.

4.3.2 Structure of the IAF

The Indian Air Force is divided into three branches namely Flying Branch, Technical Branch, and Ground Branch.

The Indian Air Force is divided into five operational commands and two functional commands. The functional commands are the Training Command at Bangalore and the Maintenance Command at Nagpur. The principal task of the Functional commands is to keep the men and machines (aircraft) ready for war. The Training includes flight training (training in operating different aircraft); specialised advanced training for MIG and other fighter aircraft; helicopter training and transport Air Craft training.

The five operational commands are :



Fig 4.12 : Central Air Command - HQ Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh



Fig 4.13 : Eastern Air Command HQ Shillong, Meghalaya



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Fig 4.14 : Southern Air Command HQ
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



Fig 4.15 : South Western Air Command HQ
Gandhinagar, Gujarat



Fig 4.16 : Western Air Command HQ Delhi

"Two additional commands of the Air Force which are responsible for training and maintenance of the fleet are:"



Fig 4.17(a) Air Force Training Command, Bangalore Fig 4.17(b) Maintenance Command, Nagpur

The Commands have Air Force Stations or bases in a variety of locations.

Each Command is headed by an Air Officer Commanding in Chief (AOC-in-C). This is held by an Air Marshal.



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4.3.3 Organization of the Indian Air Force

Similar to the army, the Indian Air Force has self sufficient fighting units. Each of these units are grouped into larger force and placed under a Command. Under each command the sub divisions are as follows:-

Section - This is the smallest unit in the Air Force. Three aircraft make a Section. It is commanded by a Flight Lieutenant.

Flight - Two sections make a Flight. A Flight is headed by a Squadron Leader.

Squadron - Squadrons are of two types Flying Squadron and Transport Squadron. Three Flights make a Squadron. There are 18 aircraft in a fighting squadron headed by a Commanding Officer who is of the rank of a Wing Commander/Group Captain. However a Transport Squadron is headed by a Group Captain.

Wing - Two or three squadrons make a Wing. The wing is usually located at an Air Force Station. The Wing is commanded by an Group Captain/Air Commodore.

Station - One Wing and one or two squadrons make a Station. It is commanded by an Air Commodore. Larger stations are commanded by an Air Vice Marshal.

Command - An Operational Command can have nine or 16 bases or stations.



Intext Questions

4.3

1. How many Operational Commands does the Indian Air Force have?

2. Explain the term 'squadron'.

3. Explain the role of the Indian Air Force.



What You Have Learnt

- Indian Army is organised in two parts. Combat Arms and Services. Combat Arms is the fighting forces of the army and comprises (i) Armoured corps (ii) Mechanised infantry (iii) Infantry. Apart from combat arms remaining army is organised under the services. Services include (i) Army Service Corps (ii) Army Medical Corps (iii) Army Dental Corps (iv) Army Ordnance Corps (v) Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (vi) Remount and veterinary corps (vii) Military Farms Service (viii) Army Education Corps. (ix) Corps of Military Police

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(x) Pioneer Corps. (xi) Army Postal Services Corps. (xii) Intelligence Corps (xiii) Judge Advocate General's Deptt. (xiv) Military Nursing Service.

Motto of the Indian Navy is "Sham No Varunah". It also fights for the secretary of the country and plays important role during natural disasters and rescue operation. Indian Navy is divided into three commands.

- Indian Air Force is the fourth largest in the world. It has been divided into five operational and two functional commands.
- Organisation of the Air Force starts with section, flight, squadron, wing, station.



Terminal Exercises

1. Describe the various divisions of Indian Army.
2. Explain the various roles of the Indian Navy.
3. Explain the organisational structure of IAF.

Answers to Intext Questions

4.1

1. Naam (name or honour), Namak (loyalty to the Nation) and Nishan (insignia or flag of the unit/regiment or Nation)
2. Training Command is located in Shimla. It is an all-service training institute.
3. Four companies make a Battalion. This division is the main fighting unit of the army and is commanded by a Battalion Commander in the rank of Colonel.
4. The Air Defence has become imminent after the change in the character of the battlefield with the introduction of aircraft. Their motto is Akashe Shatrun Jahi (Defeat the Enemy in the Sky). They follow the principle of "First In last out" meaning they would provide initial cover to the fighting units and attack important enemy assets while guarding our own.

4.2

1. शं नो वरुणः or May the Lord of the Oceans be auspicious unto us.
2. The Eastern Naval Command is located at Vishakapatnam
3. Under the benign role the Indian Navy performs the following tasks:
 - Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief like shipping people away from troubled areas; transporting essential supplies to places affected by natural calamities like floods, cyclones and earthquakes;

**Note**

- Search and Rescue (SAR) of boats and personnel in distress
- Hydrographic surveys mapping out coastal and ocean territory for other countries too.

4.3

1. The main role of the Indian Air Force is to secure Indian air space and protect it from intruders. The Air Force is also tasked to undertake air warfare during conflicts. They also play a vital role in deploying troops to remote areas and assisting in logistics. They provide air support to the other arms namely Navy and Army in their operations too.

From a humanitarian point of view, rescue of civilians in times of crises and disaster is also a principal role of the Indian Air Force. Air lifting or evacuating Indian nationals from other countries in times of civil war or other instability is also performed by the IAF.

President, Vice President or Prime Minister, Defence Minister the one provided transport facilities by Indian Air Force.

2. The Indian Air Force has Five Operational Commands.
3. Three Flights make a Squadron. There are 18 aircraft in a fighting squadron headed by a Commanding Officer who will be of the rank of a Wing Commander. However a Transport Squadron may be headed by a Group Captain.