14

INDIAN NAVY

The Indian Navy is the maritime arm of the Indian armed forces; it protects and secures the Indian maritime borders. It also protects Indian shipping in the Indian Ocean region. It is one of the world's largest Navies in terms of both personnel and naval vessels.

India has a rich maritime heritage that dates back thousands of years. The beginning of India's maritime history dates back to 3000 BC. During this time, the inhabitants of Indus Valley Civilisation had maritime trade link with Mesopotamia.

The discovery of a tidal dock at Lothal in Gujarat is proof of India's ancient maritime tradition. The mention of the Department of Navadhyaksha or Superindent of Ships in Kautilya's treatise Arthasastra highlights the development of maritime commerce. The ancient Tamil empire of the Cholas in the south, and the Marathas and the Zamorins of Kerala during the 16th and 17th centuries maintained naval fleets. You have read about all this in the previous lesson on 'Ancient Armies'.

Objectives

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

- explain the origin and evolution of the Indian Navy;

- outline the role and responsibilities of the Indian Navy;

- indicate the organisational structure of the Indian Navy and

- identify the different branches of Indian Navy.

14.1 Origin and Evolution of Indian Navy

(a)   The history of the Indian Navy can be traced back to 1612 when Captain Best encountered and defeated the Portuguese. It was responsible for the protection of the East India Company's trade in the Gulf of Cambay and the river mouths of the Tapti and Narmada. The East India Company came under the British Crown on 01 May 1830 and acquired combatant status. It was named as Her Majesty's Indian Navy in 1858. In 1863, it was reorganised into two branches; one at Bombay and the other at Calcutta, as the Bombay Marine and the Bengal Marine.

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Thereafter, it was called The Royal Indian Navy (RIN), under the British rule. The first Indian to be granted a commission was Sub Lieutenant D.N Mukherji. At the outbreak of the Second World War, the Royal Indian Navy consisted of eight warships. By the end of the war, its strength had risen to 117 combat vessels and 30,000 personnel who had seen action in various theatres of operations.

(b)   On India attaining Independence, the Royal Indian Navy consisted of 32 ageing vessels suitable only for coastal patrol., with R Adm ITS Hall, CIE, being the first Post-independence Commander-in-Chief. After the independence of India on 15 August 1947 and the ensuing partition, the RIN's fleet of ships and remaining personnel were divided between the newly independent Union of India and Dominion of Pakistan.

(c)   The first engagement in action of the Indian Navy was against the Portuguese Navy during the liberation of Goa in 1961. During the Goa liberations, Operation Vijay, the Indian Navy supported troop landings and provided fire support. The 1962 Sino-Indian War was largely fought over the Himalayas and the Navy had only a limited role in the war. Indian Naval activity in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 largely involved coastal patrols. During the war, the Pakistani Navy attacked the Indian coastal city of Dwarka, although there were no military resources in the area. India deployed naval resources to patrol the coast and deter further bombardment.

(d)   The Indian Navy's capabilities were best demonstrated during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971. The navy successfully enforced a naval blockade of West and East Pakistan. Pakistan's lone long-range submarine PNS Ghazi was sunk off the coast of Visakhapatnam. On 4 December 1971, the Indian Navy successfully executed Operation Trident, a devastating attack on the Pakistan Naval Headquarters of Karachi that sank a mine sweeper; a destroyer and ammunition supply ship. The attack also damaged another destroyer and oil storage tanks at the Karachi port. To commemorate this action, 4 December is celebrated as the Navy Day.

Fig. 14.1: Vice Admiral Ram Dass Kataria
First Naval Commander-in- chief 1958

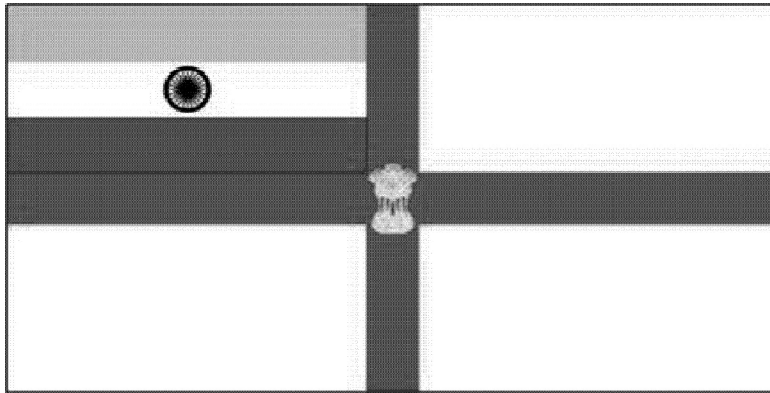*Fig. 14.2 (a): Emblem of the Indian Navy*

Fig. 14.2 (b): Naval Flag
The motto of Indian Navy is

> **SAM NO VARUNAH**
>
> **(BE AUSPICIOUS TO US LORD VARUNA)**

14.2 Role and Responsibility

The full range of operations in which a nation's naval forces may be involved is vast, ranging from high intensity war fighting to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. This can be broken down into distinct roles. The four main roles of the Indian Navy are described in the following sections.

14.2.1 Military

This includes application of maritime power against enemy forces, territory and trade, and to protect own forces, territory and trade. Tasks of navy are -

- Surveillance - to keep a watch at sea

- Maritime Strike - Attack in the sea

- Anti-submarine operations

- Anti-Surface operations

- Anti-Air operations

- Amphibious operations - Carry army soldiers to theatre of war

- Information operations

14.2.2 Diplomatic

Naval Diplomacy entails the use of naval forces in support of foreign policy objectives such as building friendship and strengthening international cooperation. Tasks would include the following:-

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- Overseas deployments

- Flag showing/Port visits- Indian naval ships going on visit abroad.

- Hosting foreign warship visiting India.

- Technical and logistics assistance to foreign ships.

- Foreign training - training naval personnel of friendly foreign countries.

- Maritime Patrols

- Bilateral/ Multilateral Exercises

- Non Combat Evacuation

- Peace enforcement, peace making, peace keeping and peace building as per requests from United Nations.

14.2.3 Constabulary

The increasing incidence of maritime crime has brought into sharp focus the constabulary role that navies have to perform. In the constabulary role, forces are employed to enforce law of the land or to implement a rule and law of the seas, established by an international mandate. With the establishment of the Indian Coast Guards in February 1978, law enforcement aspects of the constabulary role within the Maritime Zones of India (MZI) have been transferred to the Coast Guard. Constabulary tasks beyond the MZI are vested with the Indian Navy.
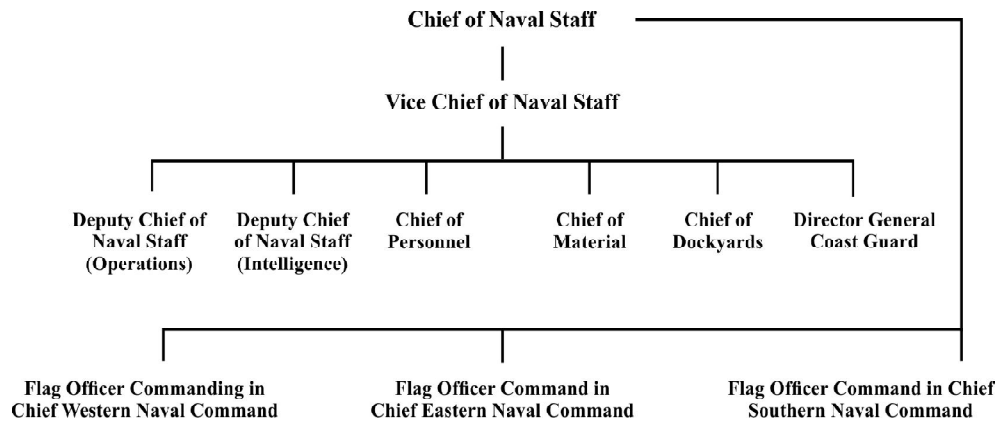
- Counter infiltration

- Anti-Piracy

- Anti-Poaching

- Anti-Trafficking

14.2.4 Benign Role

Examples of benign tasks include humanitarian aid, disaster relief, Search and Rescue (SAR), ordnance disposal, diving assistance, salvage operations, Hydrographic surveys, etc. Some of the taskes envisaged are:-

- Provision of Relief Material and Supplies

- Medical assistance

- Diving assistance

- Hydrographic assistance, etc.

14.3   Organisational Structure

```
                          Chief of Naval Staff ────────────────────┐
                                   │                                │
                          Vice Chief of Naval Staff                 │
                                   │                                │
    ┌──────────┬──────────┬────────┴────────┬──────────┬──────────┐ │
 Deputy Chief of  Deputy Chief  Chief of    Chief of    Chief of   Director General
 Naval Staff      of Naval Staff  Personnel  Material    Dockyards  Coast Guard
 (Operations)     (Intelligence)
    │                              │                                │
    └──────────────────────────────┴────────────────────────────────┘
    ┌──────────────────────┬────────────────────────┐
 Flag Officer Commanding in   Flag Officer Command in     Flag Officer Command in Chief
 Chief Western Naval Command   Chief Eastern Naval Command  Southern Naval Command
```

The Chief of Naval Staff heads the Indian Navy. The Indian Navy has three commands,

* Western Naval Command, Mumbai

* Eastern Naval Command, Vishakhapatnam and

* Southern Naval Command, Kochi

* Andaman and Nicobar Command, Port Blair (a unified command of all three services Indian Army, Navy and Air Force)
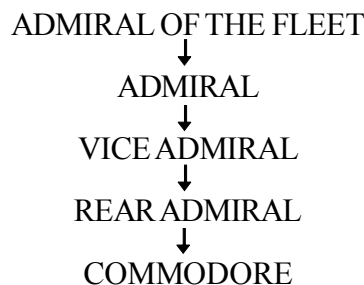
14.4 Branches of Indian Navy

14.4.1 Naval Air Arm

The naval air-arm is an important component of the Indian Navy and it consists of MiG-29K jets and helicopters that operate from aircraft carriers. The Kamov-31 operates from the aircraft carriers and provides airborne early warning cover for the fleet. In the anti-submarine role the Sea King, Ka-28 and the Indian Dhruv are used. The Boeing P-8, Poseidon and the Ilyushin 38 carry out maritime patrol and reconnaissance operations. The UAV arm consists of the Heron and Searcher-IIs that are operated from both surface ships and shore establishments for surveillance missions.
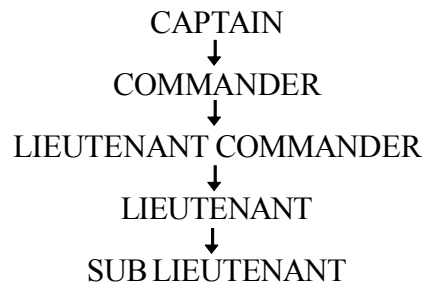
Rank Structure

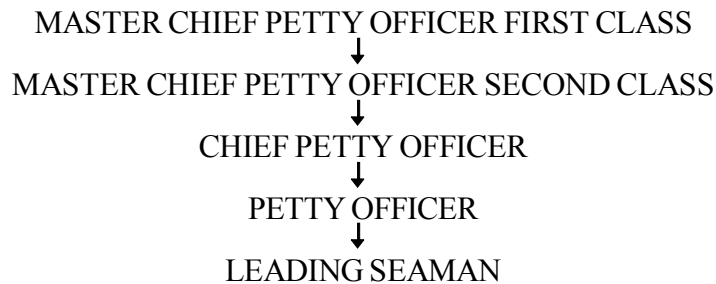The rank structure of 'Commissioned officers' is as given below:

ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET
↓
ADMIRAL
↓
VICE ADMIRAL
↓
REAR ADMIRAL
↓
COMMODORE

CAPTAIN

↓

COMMANDER

↓

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER

↓

LIEUTENANT

↓

SUB LIEUTENANT

The rank structure of `Junior Commissioned Officers (JCO)' is :

MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS

↓

MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS

↓

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER

↓

PETTY OFFICER

↓

LEADING SEAMAN

14.4.2 Fleet

Indian Navy has a large operational fleet consisting of a mixture of domestic built and foreign vessels.

o   **Submarine fleet :**

  • Nuclear-powered submarines

  • Conventionally-powered submarines

o   **Surface fleet :**

  • Aircraft carriers

  • Destroyers

  • Frigates

  • Amphibious warfare ships

  • Corvettes

  • Mine countermeasure vessels

  • Torpedo recovery vessels

  • Offshore patrol vessels

  • Patrol vessels

  • Patrol boats

o   **Auxiliary fleet :**

- Replenishment ships
- Research and survey vessels
- Training vessels
- Tugboats

14.4.3 Equipment

Cruise missile systems

- Klub SS-N-27
- Nirbhay cruise missile
- Anti-ship missile system BrahMos

Reconnaissance aircraft

- P-8I Neptune with all-weather, active-radar-homing, over-the-horizon

Ship-launched indigenous missiles

- Prithvi-II (Dhanush) 350 kilometers
- K-15 Sagarika (Oceanic) submarine-launched ballistic missile 700 km

Naval satellite

- GSAT-7

Intext Questions   14.1

1.   Who was the first Indian Naval Commander-in-chief?

2.   List any three responsibilities of the Indian Navy.

3.   Name any three ranks of Commissioned Officers in the Indian Navy.

What You Have Learnt

- Origin & Evolution of Indian Navy

- Role and Responsibilities of Indian Navy specifically with regard to Military, Diplomatic and Constabulary.

- Navy's Organisational Structure

- Various Fleet with their names

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Note

- Equipments used by Indian Navy

Terminal Exercises

1. Describe the evolution of the Indian Navy.

2. What are the principal roles of the Indian Navy?

3. Describe the organisational structure of the Indian Navy.

Answers to Intext Questions

14.1

1. Vice Admiral Ram Dass Kataria

2. Guarding India's maritime waters, protecting Indian commercial shipping and other marine assets, and Maritime Patrols.

3. Lieutenant, Commander and Captain.