

**Note****13**

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INDIAN ARMY

In this lesson you will study the Indian armed forces - Army, Navy and Air Force, their roles, tasks, organization and rank structure. Before you learn how our armed forces are organised today, you must understand how our army changed into a modern fighting machine over a period of many years. In the earlier lessons you have learnt about our ancient armies, the armies of the Mughal era and native armies during the British era.

The changes in the army during the period upto the Mughal era were slow. Later, due to technologies and new weapons and ammunition, the method of fighting changed fast and armies started becoming modern, to fight with ammunition and weapons. Invention of aircraft, vehicles with wheels and later tracks made the biggest changes in the way wars were fought. India also learnt from the experience in World Wars and made a lot of changes.



Objectives

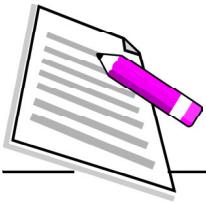
After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

- analyse the way of transformation for Indian Armed forces during the British rule as well as after independence.
- describe the role and tasks of Indian Army;
- state the Composition and Organisational structure of Indian Army and
- identify some of the important weapon systems of the Indian Army.

13.1 Historic Transformation of Indian Armed Forces

Indian military's expansion and transformation has happened in phases. There have been distinct time periods in the history of the Indian armed forces when changes have been made. The various stages by which the Indian army changed were as follows:-

- India's military structure during British rule.
- Changes in the Armed Forces after independence.
- Restructuring of armed forces after the 1962 China -India War.
- Reforms after the 1975 K.V. Krishna Rao Report.



Note

13.1.1 Indian Army During The British Rule

The British never trusted Indians. Yet, because of mutinies the British East India Company created "Native" armies. The soldiers were not given any weapons. Therefore, the army so formed was treated separately and differently. When the British Government took over from the 'East India Company', they created a British army and native army, which was commanded by British officers. The barracks for Indian army were separate and they did not mix with the British. Majority of the officers in the British Indian Army were British. However, British Indian Army had Viceroy Commissioned Officers (VCOs) who were Indians, commissioned as officers by the Viceroy, due to their ability and leadership. In the 1920s, Indians were permitted to attend Royal Military College, Sandhurst in England and became Kings Commissioned Officers (KCO). A process of "Indianization" started in 1930 with the intention of gradually replacing British officers with Indian officers. Indian soldiers were all volunteers drawn from various races and religions. The main task of the Indian Army during British rule was to police the Indian empire. As the First World War came about, the government sent Indian troops to serve abroad. By the end of Second World War the Indian Army had grown to be the largest volunteer army ever raised. Indian participation in both the World Wars has been explained in detail in the previous lessons.

13.1.2 Armed Forces After Independence

During the British rule, the Indian Army was modeled similar to the British army. Before the British left India, the entire armed forces were divided proportionately into two parts for India and Pakistan. Field Marshal Claude Auchinleck, the British Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, recommended in his report, a force structure for the armed forces of independent India. His recommendations included the formation of two lakhs strong army of 10 divisions, devoted primarily to internal security; 20 squadrons of air force and a navy of 69 capital ships. But the conflict between India and Pakistan in 1948 caused a disruption in these structural changes. The Government did not act much on this report but brought about changes in a gradual manner.

13.1.3 Restructuring After 1962 India - China War

The 1962 war against China took place in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. You will learn about the war in the next Lesson. This war brought about more changes in the organization of the armed forces. Most importantly, the government understood the need of a strong army and increased the expenditure on defence. These changes took place at all levels and impacted the structure of the armed forces. What changes did take place?

- The government gave sanction for increasing the number of soldiers from 5,50,000 to 8,25,000.
- Increase the size of the Airforce and the Navy to have 69 ships.
- Create army Divisions capable of fighting in the mountains and also defend our borders in Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Uttarakhand.
- A new weapon in the form of 7.62 mm rifle and Light Machine Gun was introduced for the infantry.



Note



Fig. 13.1: 7.62 MM Light Machine Gun



7.62 MM Rifle

- There were many other changes, which are not covered in this book. Students interested can look up the Internet to get more information.

13.1.4 Reforms After The 1975 K.V. Krishna Rao Report

In 1975 the government appointed an expert panel to undertake a long- term perspective plan for modernizing the Armed Forces upto the year 2000. General K.V. Krishna Rao, the 12th Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army, headed the committee. As per his report, major changes made were with the introduction of helicopters, BOFORS Guns and track vehicles such as BMP and T72 tanks. The changes in the Armed Forces were to make it a modern war-fighting machine and to win the wars.



Activity

13.1

Collect pictures of the following and paste in your notebook:

- Cheetah helicopter
- Bofors Gun
- T70 M1 Tank



Intext Questions

13.1

- Where did Indians attend military course during British rule?
- Name the different phases of restructuring of the armed forces.



Note

13.2 Roles of Indian Army

The Indian Army is the third largest army in the world and is regarded as one of the strongest armies in the world. Indian Army has approximately 11 Lakh men and women in its ranks. The Army headquarters is located in New Delhi. You have studied about Senapathy who was the head of the King's army. Similarly modern armies have a senapathy. He is called the Chief of the Army Staff who wears the rank of a General. Indian Army Day is celebrated with pomp and show every year on the 15th of January in the National Capital, New Delhi in the form of parades and other military shows. This was the day when Lieutenant General KM Cariappa took over as the first Commander in Chief of independent India in the year 1948. The day is marked as a day to salute the brave soldiers who laid down their lives for the protection of the country.



Fig. 13.2: General KM Cariappa-First Commander-in-Chief Of Independent India



Activity

13.2

Find out what the flag of Indian Army looks like. Collect at least four pictures of the flag and paste in your notebook.

The motto of Indian Army is

SERVICE BEFORE SELF

- 1) Indian Army is mandated to safeguard national interests from external aggression, threats and internal subversion. What does it mean? This means that our border must be protected against invaders; take action against insurgencies happening inside India, assist civil population during natural calamities such as floods or earthquakes.
- 2) The role can be divided into Primary and Secondary roles. The primary role of Indian army is to ensure national security and safeguard sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of India. The secondary roles include providing humanitarian support and aid to civil authority during calamities and natural disasters.

ROLE OF THE INDIAN ARMY

- **Guard our Borders** - Protect nation against invaders
- Protect civilians and government from insurgents
- Assist Civil administration during natural calamity and disasters

**Note****13.2.1 Tasks of Indian Army**

Role of army can be explained as to what actions they are expected to perform. These tasks are: -

- Fighting a war to meet external aggression.
- Internal security duty against internal threats.
- Force projection, taking part in army exercises with troops of friendly foreign countries etc.
- Peace keeping operations and military assistance to friendly foreign countries. Our Army is deployed in UN missions in Somalia, Congo etc.
- Render humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and aid to civil authorities.

**Activity****13.3**

Take a world map and mark the countries where Indian Army has sent its troops for UN Missions. You can see the Internet to get the answers.

13.3 Composition and Organisational Structure

The modern battlefield is complex and vast. The terrain and the geographical reach within which the Indian Army is required to operate, calls for a complex system. The army is made up of bodies of troops of varying strength (numbers). These troops are skilled and equipped for many different types of tasks. Some of these troops are from fighting arms, while others are from supporting arms and services. Thus, when a force is assembled, it comprises of troops of various types.

The structure and organization of the army is to be understood in terms of the arms and services. Force sizes from the lowest upwards are generally called the section (10 men), platoon (36 men), company, battalion, brigade, division, corps and commands. Sometimes, these are also known by some other names, which came from traditional origins, such as a battery or squadron (equal to a company), a regiment (equal to a battaliong), troop (equal to a platoon) and detachment (equal to a section). Regiments having Guns include troop and battery, and those with tanks have troop and squadrons.



Note

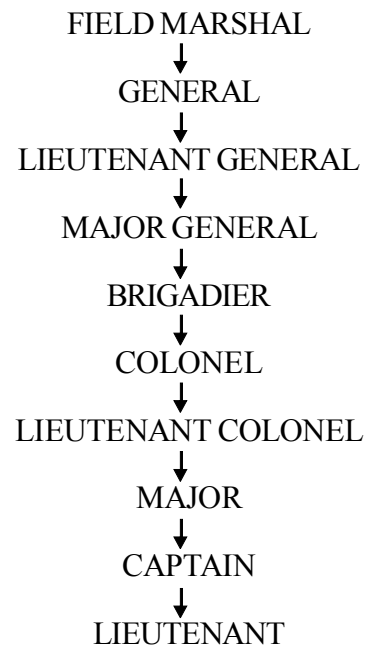
13.3.1 Command and Control of the Indian Army

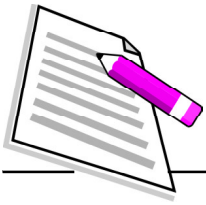
The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces. The elected political leadership of the nation. The Government of India, controls the armed forces. Executive control is exercised through the Union Cabinet, the Defence Minister, the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) and the Chiefs of Army, Naval and Air Staff of their respective Services. The Ministry of Defence handles matters related to personnel, financial and resource management.

- **Formations.** Indian army units are grouped into formations. Each formation has a size, role and equipment profile. All formations have a hierarchical command and control set up. The Army Headquarters controls the entire structure.
- **Command.** Indian Army has six operational Commands and one training command, each commanded by a General Officer Commanding- in Chief with the rank of Lieutenant General. The Commands of Indian Army are:
 - o Northern Command
 - o Eastern Command
 - o Central Command
 - o Western Command
 - o South West Command
 - o Southern Command
 - o Army Training Command
- **Corps.** A Corps is an army field formation responsible for a particular area under a Command. A Command generally consists of two or more Corps.
- **Division.** Division comes under a Corps. It generally consists of three or more brigades of combat troops and support elements. Divisions can be Infantry divisions, armoured divisions, artillery divisions etc.
- **Brigade.** A Brigade generally consists of three or more battalions comprising of around 3000-5000 combat troops with supporting elements. Army also has independent brigades, which directly operate under the Corps Commander.
- **Battalion.** A battalion consists of approximately 900 combat soldiers. It is the main fighting unit.
- **Company.** A company consists of approximately 100 - 150 soldiers.
- **Platoon.** A platoon consists of 36 soldiers. A platoon is further divided into three sections.
- **Section.** A section is the smallest military formation of the Army. The strength of a section is ten soldiers.

A. Rank Structure

The rank structure of Commissioned officers is as below:

**B. The rank structure of JCOs/NCOs is as below:****Note**



Note



Fig. 13.3: Indian Army Rank Insignia: Officers

13.3.2 Composition of the Indian Army

The army is further organized in to parts, Arms and Services. Arms cover troops which carryout actual operations and the remaining components of the army are Services. Their primary duty is to provide logistics and administration for the army.

A. Fighting Arms

- Armoured Corps for offensive operations using tanks
- Infantry for ground holding and offensive operations
- Mechanised Infantry for speedy mobilization and combining the potential of the armoured vehicle and infantry ground holding ability

B. Supporting Arms

- Artillery for providing long range fire support using guns, mortars, rockets and missiles
- Engineers for providing combat support tasks of making defences, demolitions, bridges, roads, water supply etc.
- Army Air Defence for defence against threats from the air
- Army Aviation for providing air observation and utility and communication support using helicopters.
- Signals for providing communications support
- The Intelligence Corps

C. Services

- Army Service Corps provides logistics support by provisioning rations and other supplies including mechanical and animal transport management
- Army Medical Corps for medical support in the forward areas and upto the mainland.

- Army Dental Corps for medical support
- Army Ordnance Corps for provisioning of ordnance stores, weapons and ammunition
- Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers for repair support of all equipments
- Remount and Veterinary Corps for medical support for animals (horses, mules and dogs)
- Army Postal Services for providing postal cover
- Army Education Corps for training and education of troops.
- Army Physical Education Corps for training in physical fitness
- Corps of Military Police for discipline and traffic management
- Military Farms Service for providing fresh milk and forage
- The Pioneer Corps for providing labour
- Defence Security Corps for security of static establishments and rear area security
- Judge Advocate General's Branch for legal issues
- Military Nursing Service for nursing care in military hospitals



Note

13.4 Weapons and Equipment of Army

1. **Infantry.** Infantry battalions are equipped with 9mm Pistols, Carbine Machine Guns, INSAS rifles, Sniper Rifles, Light and Medium Machine Guns, Mortars, Automatic Grenade Launchers, Rocket launchers, Anti Tank Guided Missiles and Battle Field Surveillance Radars.



Fig. 13.4: INSAS Rifle

2. **Armour.** Armoured regiments are equipped with tanks. The major tanks which are held with Indian army are T-72(Ajeya tanks), T-90 (Bhishma) and Arjun Main Battle Tanks.
3. **Mechanised Infantry.** BMP-2 Infantry Combat Vehicles are the major fighting equipments of Mechanised Infantry apart from small arms. BMPs are fitted with Anti tank missiles and machine guns.
4. **Artillery.** Artillery regiments are equipped with long range guns used in supporting role of Infantry. This includes Field guns, Medium guns, Howitzers, Multi Barrel Rocket Launchers and long-range missiles.



Note

5. **Missiles.** Indian Army has different types of missiles. These are:-

- Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles



Fig. 13.5: Agni Series-I to V - 700 km-8,000 km.

- Cruise Missiles



Fig. 13.6: BrahMos - Range of 290 Kms

- Tactical Ballistic Missiles



Fig. 13.7: Prithvi I, II and III -150 - 350 km.

- Anti-Tank Guided Missiles



Fig. 13.8: Nag Anti-tank guided missile.

6. Army Aviation

- Chetak and Cheetah Helicopters.
- Advance Landing Helicopter Dhruv



Intext Questions

13.2

1. What are the tasks of Indian Army?
2. What is a Division in the organizational structure of the Indian Army?
3. What are the fighting arms of the Indian Army?



What You Have Learnt

- How Indian Army changed over the years from the time of British rule.
- Role and Tasks of Indian Army.
- Indian Army Organisation and its structure.
- Command and Control of Indian Army [Commissioned & Non Commissioned Ranks].
- Composition of Indian Army including Fighting Arms & Supporting Arms, Army's Services.
- Various Weapons and Equipment such as Missiles used by the Indian Army.



Terminal Exercises

1. What are the major force structure recommendations of Field Marshal Claude Auchinleck for the armed forces of independent India?



Note

Armed Forces Today



Note

2. What were the changes made in the Indian Army after the 1962 India-China War?
3. List any three of the services of the Indian Army.
4. Identify the various commands of the Indian Army.
5. Name some missiles used in the army.



Answers to Intext Questions

13.1

1. Royal Military College, Sandhurst.
2. During the British rule, after independence, after 1962 war, and 1975.

13.2

1. The tasks of the army are fighting war to meet external aggression, Internal security management to include internal threats, force projection, Peacekeeping operations and military assistance to friendly foreign countries and render humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and aid to civil authorities.
2. Division is a formation, which comes under a Corps. It generally consists of approx. 15000 combat troops and support elements. Divisions can be Infantry divisions, armoured divisions, and artillery divisions' etc.
3. The fighting arms of the army are Armour, Infantry and Mechanised Infantry.

