



MILITARY HISTORY (375)

CHAPTERWISE NOTES



MILITARY HISTORY

Sl. No.	Module	Chapters (Public Examination)	Marks
1	Module 3 : Military History of the Colonial Era	L-11: Revolt of 1857 and Reforms in the Indian Army L-12: Indian Army in World War I & II	15
2	Module 4: Armed Forces Today	L-13: Indian Army L-14: Indian Navy L-15: The Indian Air Force	25

Component	Details
Public Exam (Selected Modules 1,2,5)	Total Chapters : 4
Practical Exam	NA
TMA	Tutor Marked Assignment
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1

Revolt of 1857 and Reforms in the Indian Army

Introduction :

During the British occupation of India, numerous acts of resistance were carried out by Indians. The British suppressed these revolts using cunning tactics and superior firearms. As a student of military history, it is essential to understand these uprisings and the resulting military reforms, as these revolts formed the foundation of our struggle for rights and freedom.

Vellore Mutiny by Madras Native Infantry (1806) :

- This incident is considered the first revolt against the British who colonized India.
- Reason: The mutiny was caused by a change in the dress code ordered by the British.
- Muslims were ordered to shave their beards, and Hindus were prohibited from wearing a tilak on their foreheads.
- Soldiers were forced to wear a round hat resembling European headgear, giving the impression of forced conversion to Christianity.
- Result: Mutineers seized the Vellore fort and killed or wounded more than 150 British troops

First War of Independence (1857)

- This event occurred in 1857 as a culmination of many happenings and accumulated dissatisfaction over time.
- There were nearly **300,000 sepoys** in the army compared to about 50,000 British soldiers.

Major Factors of the Revolt :

- Misunderstanding and rifts were caused by the policy of recruiting higher-caste Brahmins and Rajputs in the Bengal Army.
- Fears of religious conversion were fueled by British actions such as the abolition of Sati.
- Indian soldiers faced delayed promotions and exclusion from foreign service.



- Immediate Cause: The spark was the issue of new Enfield rifle cartridges rumored to be made from pig and cow fat, which had to be bitten off with the teeth.

Role of Mangal Pandey :

- He was a sepoy of the **34th Bengal Native Infantry**.
- On March 29, 1857, he fired upon and wounded a British officer, Lieutenant Baugh.
- He was hanged on April 8, 1857, an act that triggered a series of revolts across the country.
- Following the revolt, the rule of the East India Company was dismissed, and direct rule by the Queen of England (the Crown) was established.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Q1. What were the primary causes of the 1857 Revolt?

Ans –

1. **Immediate Cause:** Introduction of greased cartridges (cow and pig fat) in Enfield rifles.
2. **Economic Factors:** Huge pay difference between Indian and British soldiers.
3. **Professional Grievances:** Lack of promotions for Indian soldiers regardless of merit.
4. **General Service Enlistment Act:** Forced overseas service which hurt religious sentiments.

Q2. Who was Mangal Pandey and what was his role in the revolt?

Ans -Mangal Pandey was a sepoy in the 34th Bengal Native Infantry. Enraged by the greased cartridges, he attacked a British officer on 29th March 1857. He was hanged on 8th April 1857, which triggered revolts across the country.

Q3. Explain the military reforms introduced after the revolt.

Ans -

1. **Divide and Rule:** Regiments were organized based on caste and community to prevent unity.
2. **Artillery Control:** Heavy guns were kept strictly under British troops to avoid future revolts.
3. **Officer Rapport:** British officers had to learn Indian languages to communicate better with sepoys.



Q4. What was the "Magna Carta of the People of India"?

Ans - The royal proclamation issued by Queen Victoria on November 1, 1858, was called the Magna Carta. It ended East India Company's rule and established direct rule by the British Crown.

Q5. Describe the reorganization of Infantry after 1857.'

Ans - A battalion had 600 sepoys with a rank structure including Subedars, Jamadars, and Havildars. Initially, all senior officers were British, but later Indian officers (KCOs) like KM Cariappa were commissioned.



2

Indian Army in World War

I & II

Introduction :

Under British rule, Indian soldiers played a vital role in both World Wars. After the first war of independence in 1857, Indian sepoys were organized into a 'Regular Army'. During World War I, they gained their first real experience of modern warfare and bravely faced difficult conditions and extreme cold on foreign soil. The discipline and valor of Indian soldiers earned them global respect, making it essential to understand the contribution of our troops to the victory of the Allied powers.

World War I (1914-1918)

This war lasted from July 28, 1914, to November 11, 1918, and is also known as the 'Great War'.

The Two Blocs :

- **Central Powers:** Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire.
- **Allied Powers:** Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Japan, and the United States.
- **Indian Contribution:** The Indian Army was deployed in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and South-East Asia.
- **Major Victories:** In the battles of Kohima and Imphal, Indians stopped the Japanese army's advance; these are considered among the fiercest battles in modern history.
- **Awards:** Indians received a total of 28 Victoria Crosses during World War II.

Reasons for the War

- **Immediate Cause:** The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austrian Empire, on June 28, 1914, in Sarajevo, Bosnia.
- **Other Reasons:** These included Germany's ambitions, secret alliances between countries, and the lack of an effective international organization.



Major Battles of World War I

- **Ypres, Belgium:** Indian soldiers fought here against the Germans and faced the first 'gas attack' in the history of warfare.
- **Neuve Chapelle :** In this battle in March 1915, Indian soldiers successfully broke through and captured German trenches.
- **Gallipoli Peninsula :** Here, Indian Sikh soldiers and medical services displayed indomitable courage.
- **Mesopotamia :** This was primarily an Indian campaign where victories were achieved in areas such as Fao, Basra, and Baghdad.
- **Egypt and Palestine :** On September 23, 1918, the Mysore and Jodhpur Lancers undertook a famous cavalry action to recapture the city of Haifa.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Q1. Discuss India's contribution to World War I.

Ans –

1. Over 1.3 million Indian soldiers volunteered to serve.
2. They fought in campaigns across France, Belgium, Egypt, and Mesopotamia.
3. India contributed £146.2 million towards war costs and supplied millions of rounds of ammunition and garments.

Q2. What is the Victoria Cross and how many Indians won it in WWI?

Ans - A paramilitary force is a semi-militarized organization that is trained and organized like a professional army but is not part of the state's formal armed forces. Their primary role is to assist the Indian Armed Forces in guarding the borders during peace and maintaining internal security during riots or insurgencies. During a full-scale war, these forces usually come under the operational control of the Army to perform secondary infantry tasks.

Q3. Explain the significance of the Battle of Haifa.

Ans - On 23 September 1918, the 15th Imperial Service Brigade (Mysore and Jodhpur Lancers) captured the city of Haifa in Palestine in one of the most famous cavalry actions of WWI.



Q4. What was the role of the Indian Army in World War II?

Ans: Indian troops fought on two main fronts: Western (Europe and Africa) and Eastern (SE Asia). They were crucial in defeating Japanese forces in Burma (Kohima and Imphal) and Axis powers in Africa and Italy.

Q5. Why did the Indian Air Force receive the prefix 'Royal' in 1945?

Ans - King George VI conferred the prefix 'Royal' in 1945 in recognition of the IAF's distinguished services during World War II. It became the 'Indian Air Force' again in 1950.



3

Indian Army

Introduction :

The development of the Indian Army is the result of a process spanning centuries, based on experiences ranging from ancient times to the Mughal and British eras. The invention of modern technology, aircraft, and armored vehicles has brought revolutionary changes to the methods of warfare. Today's Indian Army is considered one of the third largest and most powerful armies in the world, whose primary objective is to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

Historic Transformation of Indian Armed Forces :

The transformation of the Indian Army has primarily occurred in four stages:

- **During British Rule:** Despite a lack of trust in Indians, the British East India Company created "Native" armies, which were led by British officers.
- **After Independence :** Structural changes were disrupted due to the 1948 India-Pakistan conflict, but reforms continued gradually.
- **Restructuring After the 1962 India-China War :** This war highlighted the need for a strong army, leading to an increase in defense expenditure.
- **Reforms After the 1975 K.V. Krishna Rao Report :** The main objective of these reforms was the modernization of the army.

Major Historical Ranks :

- **VCO (Viceroy Commissioned Officers):** Indians who were commissioned as officers by the Viceroy due to their leadership ability and competence.



- **KCO (Kings Commissioned Officers):** Indians who were permitted to attend training at Sandhurst in England and subsequently became commissioned officers

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Q1. What are the primary and secondary roles of the Indian Army?

Ans - Primary Role: Ensure national security, safeguard sovereignty, and territorial integrity against invaders. **Secondary Role:** Assist civil authorities during natural calamities like floods and provide humanitarian aid.

Q2. List the seven commands of the Indian Army.

Ans - Northern, Eastern, Central, Western, South West, Southern, and Army Training Command (ARTRAC).

Q3. Explain the hierarchy of field formations from smallest to largest.

Ans -

1. section is the smallest unit with about 10 soldiers.
2. Platoon is made up of 3–4 sections with about 30–36 soldiers.
3. Company consists of 3–4 platoons with about 100–150 soldiers.
4. Battalion is formed by 4–6 companies with about 600–800 soldiers.
5. Brigade is made up of 3–4 battalions.
6. Division consists of 3–4 brigades.
7. Corps is formed by 2–3 divisions.
8. Command is the largest formation consisting of several corps.

Q4. What is the difference between 'Fighting Arms' and 'Supporting Arms'?

Ans - Fighting Arms are the branches of the army that directly fight with the enemy on the battlefield. Their main role is to attack and defeat the enemy. Examples include Infantry, Armoured Corps, and Artillery. Supporting Arms are the branches that help the Fighting Arms. They do not fight directly but provide support like communication, engineering, medical help, and logistics to ensure smooth operations.

Q5. Mention some important weapon systems used by the Indian Army.

Ans - The Indian Army uses different types of weapon systems for combat.

1. **Infantry:** INSAS rifles, Sniper Rifles.



2. **Armour:** T-90 Bhisma, Arjun tanks.

3. **Artillery:** Bofors guns.

4. **Missiles:** Agni (ICBM), BrahMos (Cruise), and Prithvi (Ballistic).

4

Indian Navy

Introduction :

The Indian Navy is the maritime arm of the Indian armed forces; it protects and secures the Indian maritime borders. It not only keeps Indian waters safe but also protects Indian shipping in the Indian Ocean region. India has a rich maritime heritage that dates back thousands of years, beginning as early as 3000 BC during the Indus Valley Civilization. Currently, it is one of the world's largest Navies in terms of both personnel and naval vessels.

Origin and Evolution of the Indian Navy

- **Historical Roots:** The history of the Indian Navy can be traced back to 1612 when Captain Best encountered and defeated the Portuguese.
- **British Rule:** In 1830, the force acquired combatant status under the British Crown, was named 'Her Majesty's Indian Navy' in 1858, and later became the Royal Indian Navy (RIN).
- **First Indian Officer:** Sub Lieutenant D.N. Mukherji was the first Indian to be granted a commission in the navy.
- **After Independence:** Following the partition on 15 August 1947, the fleet of ships and personnel were divided between the newly independent Union of India and the Dominion of Pakistan.
- **First Indian Chief:** Vice Admiral Ram Dass Katari became the first Indian Naval Commander-in-Chief in 1958.
- **Operation Trident (1971):** On 4 December 1971, the Navy executed a devastating attack on the Karachi port. To commemorate this historic action, 4 December is celebrated annually as Navy Day



IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Q1. What are the four main roles of the Indian Navy?

Ans -

1. **Military** : Applying maritime power against enemy forces.
2. **Diplomatic** : Building friendship with foreign nations through port visits.
3. **Constabulary** : Enforcing laws at sea and fighting piracy/trafficking.
4. **Benign** : Humanitarian aid and search and rescue operations.

Q2. Discuss the Navy's performance and significance in the 1971 Indo-Pak War.

Ans - In 1971, the Navy enforced a complete naval blockade of West and East Pakistan. On 4 December, Operation Trident was executed, a devastating attack on Karachi port that sank multiple enemy ships. To commemorate this victory, 4 December is celebrated as Navy Day.

Q3. Name the three operational commands of the Indian Navy.

Ans –

1. Western Naval Command (Mumbai).
2. Eastern Naval Command (Visakhapatnam).
3. Southern Naval Command (Kochi).

Q4. Describe the ancient maritime heritage of India as mentioned in the text.

Ans - India's maritime history dates back to 3000 BC with the Indus Valley Civilization trading with Mesopotamia. Proof includes the tidal dock at Lothal and mentions of 'Navadhyaksha' (Superintendent of Ships) in Kautilya's Arthashastra. Later, the Cholas, Marathas, and Zamorins maintained powerful naval fleets.

Q5. key components and equipment of the modern Indian Naval fleet.



Ans - The modern Indian Naval fleet has four main parts. It includes submarines (nuclear and conventional) that operate underwater. Surface ships like aircraft carriers, destroyers, frigates, and corvettes are used on the sea surface for combat. The air arm includes MiG-29K fighter jets and helicopters like Kamov-31 and Dhruv for air support. It also uses missiles like BrahMos, Klub, and Dhanush for attacking targets at sea and land.

5

The Indian Air Force

Introduction :

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is the air arm of the Indian armed forces. It protects and secures the Indian airspace and conducts air warfare during a war. It is the youngest arm of the Indian Armed Forces. It was established by the British Empire on 8 October 1932, as an auxiliary of the Royal (British) Air Force. When India became a republic in 1950, the prefix of 'Royal' was dropped and it was renamed the Indian Air Force. Today, it is a modern, multi-role capable force with transoceanic reach, meaning it can go to any part of the world on a mission.

Role and Responsibility :

Role :

- **Motto** : 'नभःस्पृशं दीप्तम्' (Touch the Sky with Glory / God seeing you touching the skies).
- **Primary Objective** : To defend the nation and its airspace against air threats in coordination with the Army and Navy.
- **Secondary Objective** : To assist civil power during natural calamities and internal disturbances.

Responsibility :

- Provide close air support to the Indian Army troops in the battlefield.
- Provide strategic and tactical airlift capabilities.
- Evacuation of Indian nationals from foreign countries in case of instability or other problems.
- Provide disaster relief (floods, cyclones, earthquakes) to civil authorities.



IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Q1. Describe the mission and primary objectives of the Indian Air Force.

Ans –

- 1. Defend Airspace :** To protect the nation and its airspace against air threats in coordination with the Army and Navy.
- 2. Combat Support :** Provide close air support to troops on the battlefield and strategic airlift capabilities.
- 3. Peacetime Aid :** Assist civil authorities during natural calamities like floods, cyclones, or earthquakes.
- 4. Evacuation :** Rescue Indian nationals from foreign countries during instability.

Q2. Explain the organizational structure and Commands of the IAF.

Ans - The Indian Air Force (IAF) is divided into five operational commands and two functional commands, and each command is headed by an Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief. **Operational commands** are Western (New Delhi), Eastern (Shillong), Central (Allahabad), Southern (Thiruvananthapuram), and South Western (Gandhinagar). **Functional commands** are Training Command (Bangalore) and Maintenance Command (Nagpur).

Q3. What is the 'Integrated Space Cell' and why is it important for national security?

Ans - It is a cell operated jointly by the three services (Army, Navy, Air Force), ISRO, and the Department of Space. It is important because it utilizes space technology and satellites for military purposes, such as surveillance of enemy movements and secure communication during wars.

Q4. Categorize the different types of aircraft used by the IAF today.

Ans –

- 1. Fighters :** High-speed combat jets like Su-30 MKI, Mirage-2000, MiG-29, and Rafale.
- 2. Transport :** Heavy-lift aircraft for troops and supplies like C-17 Globemaster, C-130J, and IL-76.



3. Helicopters : For assault and rescue like Mi-17 V5, Chetak, and the indigenous Dhruv (ALH).

Q5. Explain the significance of the prefix 'Royal' in IAF history.

Ans - In 1945, King George VI conferred the prefix 'Royal' to the Air Force in recognition of its distinguished services during World War II. It became the 'Royal Indian Air Force' until 1950, when India became a republic and the prefix was dropped.

