

## CHAPTER - 22

# DEFENCE OF THE NATION



### We learn about the following in this chapter,

- The different units of the defence system and their responsibilities;
- The posts and the heads of the different units of the military;
- The contribution of the military to the security of the nation;
- The secondary defence system, apart from the military.

As you have already known, our country was under imperial rule of foreigners and only after many protests, struggles and sacrifices we got our independence on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947. Hence it is our bounden duty to ensure that our nation does not ever come under external aggression. Our armed forces are to be prepared in such a manner that they are able to safeguard the sovereignty of the nation at all times.

India has nearly 15,200 km of land border and about 7,516.50 km of sea border to protect. We have border relationships with Pakistan, China, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. Though we desire to live in peace, our neighbouring nations do not permit us to do so. Although India has made sincere efforts to solve all problems in an amicable manner through peace talks, our efforts have not met with success. It is for these reasons that the role of our defence forces assumes great significance.

**Organisation of the Defence Forces :** The Indian Defence system consists of three wings – Army, Navy and Air Force. The President is the Commander-in-chief of all the three divisions. The Chief of the army is known as General, the chief of the Naval Force is called Admiral and that of the Air Force is called Air Chief Marshal. In 2001, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CIDS) was appointed for better management of the three services. The Indian Defence Minister co-ordinates the work of the three forces. Each force has its own training centers.

The headquarters of the Defence Ministry is in New Delhi. This Ministry has four sections : 1. Defence Section 2. Defence Production Section 3. Defence Research and Development Section 4. Retired Defence Personnel Welfare Section.

### **Indian Army**

The headquarters of the Indian Army is in New Delhi. Its head is known as the Commander – in – Chief. He has a Deputy Commander-in-chief, General, Major General, Brigadier, Military Secretary and a Military Engineer to assist him in his work. The army consists of Infantry, Cavalry, Tank Regiments called the Armed Corps and the Gunners' Regiment. There is a Supply and Engineering branch too. The Indian Army has been divided into seven commands for administrative convenience. Their names and headquarters are as given below :

1. Western Command – Chandimandir (Chandigarh)
2. Eastern Command – Kolkata (West Bengal)
3. Northern Command – Udhampur (Kashmir)
4. Southern Command – Pune (Maharashtra)
5. Central Command – Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)
6. Training Command – Mhow (Madhya Pradesh)
7. North-Western Command – Jaipur (Rajasthan)



**Land Army**

Each command is under the charge of a general officer (commander-in-chief) of the rank of a Lt.General. These army commands are

divided into Areas and Sub-areas which are headed by Major General and Brigadier respectively. The important training centers are the National Defence Academy in Khadakwasla near Pune, the Defence Personnel College in Wellington near Ooty, the National Defence College in New Delhi, the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun and the Officers' Training School in Chennai.

The main responsibility of the army is to protect the land and its sovereignty against attacks by foreign nations. Defence has a great influence on our geographical, political, social and technical environments. It also plays an important role in guarding the border areas and in tackling natural calamities.

There are 12,37,117 soldiers in the Land Army and 9,60,000 Reserved soldiers.

### **Indian Navy**

India has one of the world's longest coastline. We require a strong Naval force to protect the islands of Andaman-Nicobar and the Lakshadweep together with the coast of the mainland. The headquarters of the Navy is also in New Delhi. Its head is The Admiral, under him there are various officers like, Vice-Admiral, Rear Admiral, Commander, Captain, Lieutenant Commander, Lieutenant and Sub-lieutenant.



**Naval Force**

Our Navy has been organized into three Naval commands which are: 1. Western Naval command (Mumbai) 2. Eastern Naval command (Vishakapatnam) 3. Southern Command (Cochin). The navy has two fleets – the Western Fleet and the Eastern Fleet. Indian Navy is huge

and to expand it further, Hindustan Ship Yard has been established at Vishakapatna. Besides, ship building work also goes on in Kolkata and Goa. Ships, submarines and small boats are also built in these ship yards.

Various frigates, i.e., warships like INS Neelagiri, Himagiri, Devagiri, Taragiri, Vindhyaagiri, Chakradhari (a recent addition in March 2012) and INS Godavari, survey ships and Coastguard forces have been constructed. Recently INS Vibhuti, a warship equipped with rockets, was constructed. Due to all these developments, India is considered the 6<sup>th</sup> nation to possess ultra-modern warships.

Indian Navy has two training centres, one in Kerala INS Vanduvari and the other in Maharashtra, INS Shivaji at Lonavala.

### **Indian Air Force**

The Indian Air Force is a modern unit, well-equipped with technologically advanced aircrafts. It has good defence equipment, well-developed communication network, latest spying technology, capability to confront the enemy and defend the nation. It also has sufficient number of warplanes, helicopters and assault aircrafts.

#### **Activity**

Collect more information about our defence forces from ex-serviceman.



**Indian Air Force**

The Indian Air Force works effectively and courageously both during war times and peace times. It has succeeded in ensuring safety, security and stability. The headquarters of the Air Force is in New

Delhi. The head of the Airforce is Air Chief Marshall. It is organized into five Operational Commands and 2 Functional Commands. They are as follows :

### **Operational Commands**

1. Western Command – New Delhi
2. Eastern Command – Shillong (Meghalaya)
3. Central Command – Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)
4. North Western Command – Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
5. Southern Command – Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)

### **Functional Commands**

1. Training Command – Bangalore (Karnataka)
2. Maintenance Command – Nagpur (Maharashtra)

Our Airforce has the most modernised war planes like Jaguar, Raphael. It has 1,00,000 soldiers and 1330 war planes. We are proud that we have a strong Airforce.

Two important centers imparting training to the Air Force are Bangalore and Hyderabad. Those who have been selected to the Air Force are given training in flying at the Special Training Center in Dundighat. Similarly, administrative and technical training centers are at Bangalore and Coimbatore. Today our Air Force has more than one thousand airplanes and helicopters. The main types of aircraft are Canberra, Hunter, Ajeet, MiG 21, MiG 23, MiG 25, MiG 27, MiG 29, Mirage 2000 etc.

### **Do you know this ? The various cadres of the 3 Armed Forces**

<b>1. Army</b>	<b>2. Navy</b>	<b>3. Air Force</b>
a. General	a. Admiral	a. Air Chief Marshal
b. Lieutenant General	b. Vice Admiral	b. Air Marshal
c. Major General	c. Rear Admiral	c. Air Vice Marshal
d. Brigadier	d. Commodore	d. Air Commodore
e. Colonel	e. Captain	e. Group Captain
f. Lieutenant Colonel	f. Commander	f. Wing Commander
g. Major	g. Lieutenant Commander	g. Squadron Leader
h. Captain	h. Lieutenant	h. Flight Lieutenant
i. Lieutenant	i. Sub-lieutenant	i. Flying Officer

**Recruitment to the Army:** Those who desire to work in the Armed forces should be service-oriented, patriotic, ready to sacrifice their lives for the sake of the country and also be familiar with the multi-cultural fabric of the nation. Any citizen of the country, irrespective of his religion, caste, class or community can join the military. However, there are certain conditions with regard to physical requirements, mental health, general education and technical knowledge that have to be met.

When recruitments are made to the lower posts of the army, they are made according to the percentage of recruitable male population (RMP) of the State and Union Territories. Suitable candidates are recruited to the Air Force through selection and registration on an All-India basis. This is done by the Central Airmen Selection Board (CASB). Recruitment of sailors to the Navy takes place through the Naval Recruitment Organisation (NRO). Responsibility for this task lies with the Human Resource Project and the Directorate at the headquarters of the Navy. Recruitment of women to the three armed forces takes place through the Women Special Entry Scheme (WSES).

**Defence producting :** The activities of the Defence production are divided into two: 1. The manufacturing units run by the Department, and 2. The manufacturing units run by the Public Defence Sector. The factories of the first kind manufacture gun powder, weapons, tanks etc. whereas the factories in the public sector manufacture ships, aircraft, bulldozers, submarines, rockets etc.

***Do you know this?***

***Public Sector Industries***

*BEL – Bharath Electronics Ltd. - 1954;*

*HAL - Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. - 1964;*

*BEML – Bharath Earth Movers Ltd. - 1964, and*

*BDL – Bharath Dynamics Ltd. - 1970.*

**Our Defence- Preparedness and Research and Development:** Today our defence forces have to face many challenges. Ex: Terrorism, Naxal attacks etc. Hence our soldiers are prepared to guard our borders all the time. Our army is the fourth largest in the world, our air force the fifth largest and our navy too the fifth largest.

Seabird Naval base has been opened at Karwar in Karnataka to strength our navy. In addition, the DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) which was established in 1958, has developed advanced earth- to- earth rockets like Pruthvi, Trishul, Akash, Nag, Agni 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012 Agni 5 was sent with a rocket which could cover 5 thousand kilometers). With submarines and antisubmarines, India has joined the ranks of elite countries like America, Russia, Britain, France and others.

Bofors guns were used effectively in the Kargil war between India and Pakistan. The Pokhran experiment has enabled India to develop technology which provides us ability to face even nuclear attacks. In addition, 55 Defence Laboratories have been established in different parts of the country. Therefore, like our Armed Forces, even we should be prepared to lay down our lives for the sake of our country.

#### ***Do you know this ?***

***Kargil War - 1999 :*** *The Kargil war was fought between India and Pakistan during May-June 1999. On May 16, Pak terrorists mounted an aerial attack on the highest area of Kashmir. In relation to this, India started 'Operation Vijay' and attacked Pakistan. The Indian Army faced a setback initially. Later, it reinforced its attack through the use of Bofors Guns and on 14th June, Pakistan retreated shamefully. Though this was a minor war, it drew the attention of the whole word. All countries condemned Pakistan as an 'Aggressive Nation' for having attacked a peace-loving country like India. This war aroused a sense of nationalism in Indians.*

*Around 30,000 Indian soldiers had taken part in this war. It was estimated that 5000 Pakistani soldiers had taken part. The Indian Air Force boosted the Indian Army through 'operation saved sagar.' In the last week of July. The Indian Army began its final attack. The war ended on 26th July. The day India defeated Pakistan is celebrated as 'Kargil Vijay Divas' (or 'Kargil Victory Day') in India. Every year this is celebrated on July 26th.*

#### **Second line of defence**

Besides the Armed Forces, there are other organizations which form a second line of defence. They are:

- |                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Territorial Army | 2. N.C.C. – National Cadet Corps |
| 3. Coastal Guard    | 4. Border Security Force         |

- 5. Civil Defence
- 7. Red Cross

## 6. Home Guards

**Territorial Army** : It is a voluntary part-time force. Its services are used only during emergencies like natural calamities. It was established by a Parliament Act in 1949. It has no professional soldiers, but only civilians who are eager to play a role in defence and are given military training in their spare time. Only a person who is gainfully employed and in the age group of 18 to 42 is eligible to join the force. Every year, the third Saturday of November is celebrated as 'Territorial Army Day'.

**National Cadet Corps**: N.C.C. is mainly a youth organisation of the country. It was established in 1948. School and college-going students can voluntarily join this organisation. Its aim is to develop among the students a sense of discipline, leadership qualities, friendliness and service-mindedness. It is a body of disciplined and trained youth force which comes to the rescue of the nation during emergencies.

There are two units in N.C.C. –the senior unit at college level and the junior unit at school level. These cadets are given various concessions :

1. Those who have received N.C.C. training can join the armed forces easily.
2. Cadets who have earned distinction during training are given seats in professional colleges.
3. Cadets are given training in handling weapons.
4. During training, cadets go on adventures like hiking, trekking, gliding, scaling or mountaineering, sailing etc.
5. Students who have received N.C.C. training can secure admission in any defence school.



**Indian Coast Guard** : It is a para-military force. It is very important among the secondary defence forces. It was formed in 1978. It protects the interests of the nation with regard to its waters. It guards the coastline of 7516.5

**Activity**

*Join N.C.C., Scouts in your school and get more information about them.*

km. area. The ships of the Coastal Guard have been given names like Puthar, Vikram, Vijay, Veera etc. They prevent smuggling and illegal sea trade. Its headquarters is in New Delhi and is headed by a Director General. It has four regional headquarters at Mumbai, Chennai, Gandhinagar and Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar islands.

Our Coastal Guard has 1402 most modernised ships and 381 Naval planes and 60 Helicopters.

**Border Security Force** : Border Security Force was established in 1965. Its soldiers vigilantly keep watch over our borders which stretch upto 15200 kms. Its training center is in Yelahanka in Bangalore. BSF has successfully prevented transgression of our borders and illegal entry of foreigners and smuggling. During threats to internal security, soldiers from Assam Rifles, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), National Security Guards (NSG – to tackle terrorism), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Railway Protection Force (RPF) assist the BSF.

**Civil Defence** : The main aim of this force is protection of life of the citizens. It also strives to reduce the damage to property and malpractices with regard to industrial products. It is a voluntary organisation. The activities of this citizens' forum are restricted to 22 sections or cities. At present, there are 13 lakh consumer protection volunteers of whom 6.64 lakhs have been trained.

**Home Guards** : Home Guards is a voluntary force. It was established first in 1946. It is of great help to the local police in curbing communal clashes, restoring peace in society and during elections. This force can be found in some States and Union Territories. During the Indo-China war in 1962, volunteers from the Home Guards wore uniforms and fought along with the Indian soldiers. There are nearly 5,73,793 Home Guards volunteers in India.

**Red Cross** : Red Cross Society is both a national and an international organization. In 1920 Indian parliament passed the bill and established this organisation.

The Indian Red Cross is a humanitarian voluntary organization and has nearly 700 branches across State and Union Territories. Its headquarters are in New Delhi. The Indian President is its Chairman and Governor in the state branch. A Secretary General is its Administrative Officer. It has an administrative body consisting of 19 members and a Secretary. The President nominates 6 members whereas the remaining 12 members are elected from the State and Union Territories. The Red Cross Society renders valuable service to people during natural calamities and other emergencies. Without any discrimination, it helps sick people and those wounded on the battle-field. This organization believes in 7 fundamental principles: 1) Humanity 2) Impartiality 3) Neutrality 4) Independence 5) Voluntary work 6) Oneness 7) Internationalism.

Our nation is well-protected by our three Armed Forces and the secondary defence forces. It is in gratitude for their sacrifice, courage, and great achievement that they are honoured with awards like Param Vir Chakra, Vishist Vir Chakra, Vir Chakra etc. These awards are equivalent to the Ashoka Chakra given during peace times to citizens.

**The Armed Forces and International Peace:** Our Armed Forces have earned respect for not only serving our country well but also engaging themselves in establishing peace in foreign countries. Our soldiers have worked under the supervision of the United Nations in countries like Gaza, Korea, Congo, Sri Lanka and others. It was with the help of our soldiers that Bangladesh could become an independent country.

In this way, our Armed Forces are working for our country both during war-times and peace-times. They are also rendering invaluable service during natural calamities like floods, droughts, earthquakes, landslides, storms etc.

## **EXERCISES**

### **I. Fill in the blanks with suitable words.**

1. The main objective of our defence policy is protecting \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Commander-in-Chief of our three Armed Forces is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Chief of the Army is called \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The headquarters of the Defence Ministry is in \_\_\_\_\_.

5. The Hindustan Ship-building yard is at \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The border security force training centre is in \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The Indian Red Cross Society established in \_\_\_\_\_ .

## **II. Answer the following questions after group discussion.**

1. What is the Naval Base near Karwar known as?
2. Which are the four divisions of our Defence Ministry?
3. Explain the structure of the Indian Army.
4. Which are the Commands of the Army?
5. Explain the functions of the Indian Air Force.
6. What are the qualifications required for recruitment to the Army?
7. What are the aims of N.C.C.? What are its advantages?
8. Explain the organization of the Indian Red Cross Society.

## **III. Activities :**

1. Have a discussion on the defence system in your school.
2. Visit a branch of the Red Cross Society in your town and get to know their activities. Prepare a report.
3. Invite a retired Military soldier and share experiences with him.

## **IV. Projects :**

1. Collect pictures of our armed forces and display in your school.
2. Start a branch of the Red Cross Society in your school and help the needy.
3. Collect pictures of rockets and warships.

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