

INDIAN ARMED FORCES

THE GUARDIANS OF OUR NATION. THE PRIDE OF INDIA.

PART - I

"The safety, honour, and welfare
of your country come first,
always and every time."

— Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw



INDIAN ARMY



INDIAN NAVY



INDIAN AIR FORCE

COURAGE ★ DISCIPLINE ★ HONOUR ★ LOYALTY ★ SACRIFICE

A COMPLETE GUIDE FOR NDA | CDS | AFCAT | CAPF | DEFENCE ASPIRANTS



INDIAN ARMED FORCES (PART-1)

INDIAN ARMED FORCES

"The safety, honour, and welfare of your country come first, always and every time."

— Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw



1.1 Introduction

The **Indian Armed Forces** are among the world's largest and most professional military forces. Their primary responsibility is to safeguard India's **sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national interests** from external aggression while also assisting civil authorities during internal emergencies, natural disasters, and humanitarian crises.

Every day, Indian soldiers serve under some of the most challenging conditions on Earth—from the icy heights of the Himalayas and the Siachen Glacier to the scorching deserts of Rajasthan, the dense forests of the Northeast, and the vast waters of the Indian Ocean. Despite these harsh environments, they remain committed to protecting the nation with courage, discipline, and unwavering dedication.

The Indian Armed Forces consist of three professional services:

- **IN Indian Army** – Protects the nation on land.
- **Indian Navy** – Safeguards India's maritime interests.
- **Indian Air Force** – Defends the nation's airspace.

Together, these three services form the backbone of India's national security.



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1.2 Military Ethos

Military ethos refers to the moral values, traditions, professional conduct, and fighting spirit that guide every member of the Armed Forces.

Every soldier is expected to uphold:

- Honour
- Integrity
- Discipline
- Courage
- Loyalty
- Selfless Service
- Camaraderie
- Patriotism

These values create a bond that is stronger than personal interests and ensure that every soldier places the nation above self.

1.3 The Three "N"s of a Soldier

One of the most respected traditions in the Indian Army is the concept of the **Three N's**.

Term	Meaning
Naam	Honour, reputation, and dignity
Namak	Loyalty towards the Nation, Regiment, and fellow soldiers
Nishan	The flag, insignia, and pride of the Regiment and the Nation

These principles inspire soldiers to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and sacrifice.

Military Principle: A soldier values honour above life and chooses duty over personal comfort.

1.4 Core Values of the Indian Soldier

Every soldier is trained to embody the following qualities:

- Courage in adversity
- Loyalty to the nation
- Integrity in conduct
- Discipline in action
- Respect for fellow soldiers
- Commitment to duty
- Team spirit
- Selfless sacrifice

There is no discrimination based on caste, religion, language, or region. Every soldier is united by a common mission—to serve the nation.

1.5 Operational Environment

The Indian Armed Forces operate in diverse and demanding terrains, including:

- 🏔️ High-altitude mountains
- ❄️ Snow-covered glaciers
- 🏜️ Hot deserts
- 🌳 Dense forests
- 🪨 Rocky terrain
- 🌊 Coastal regions
- ⚓ Open seas



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- 🏝 Islands
- 🌊 Riverine and marshy areas
- 🌐 International peacekeeping missions

This diversity makes the Indian Armed Forces one of the most versatile military forces in the world.

1.6 Roles of the Indian Armed Forces

The Armed Forces perform multiple responsibilities beyond conventional warfare.

Primary Roles

- Defend India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- Protect the nation from external aggression.
- Safeguard national interests.
- Maintain operational preparedness.

Secondary Roles

- Assist civil authorities during emergencies.
- Conduct disaster relief operations.
- Participate in humanitarian assistance missions.
- Undertake rescue and evacuation operations.
- Contribute to United Nations Peacekeeping Missions.

The Three Services

Service	Domain
Indian Army	Land
Indian Navy	Sea
Indian Air Force	Air

The Three N's

"N"	Represents
<u>N</u> aam	Honour
<u>N</u> amak	Loyalty
<u>N</u> ishan	Flag and Insignia

💡 Did You Know?

- India has one of the **largest standing armed forces** in the world.
- Indian soldiers guard the **Siachen Glacier**, the world's highest battlefield.
- India is one of the leading contributors to **United Nations Peacekeeping Operations**.

INDIAN ARMY

"Service Before Self."

2.1 Introduction to the Indian Army

The **Indian Army** is the largest component of the Indian Armed Forces and is responsible for safeguarding the nation's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and national interests on land. It is one of the world's largest and most



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battle-experienced armies, capable of operating across diverse terrains ranging from the icy heights of the Himalayas to deserts, forests, plains, and urban environments.

The Army remains in a constant state of operational readiness to respond to conventional warfare, counter-insurgency operations, border management, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and peacekeeping missions.

2.2 Role of the Indian Army

The primary role of the Indian Army is to defend the country against external aggression while ensuring the security of India's borders.

Its major responsibilities include:

- Defend India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- Protect the nation from external aggression.
- Conduct counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations.
- Assist civil authorities during natural and man-made disasters.
- Support internal security whenever required.
- Participate in United Nations Peacekeeping Missions.
- Provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).
- Maintain a high level of operational preparedness at all times.

2.3 Organisation of the Indian Army

The Indian Army follows a hierarchical command structure to ensure effective administration, operational control, and battlefield efficiency.

The organisational hierarchy is as follows:

Command



Corps



Division



Brigade



Battalion



Company



Platoon



Section

Each formation has a specific operational role and is commanded by officers of different ranks.



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2.4 Field Formations of the Indian Army

Formation	Approximate Strength	Commanded By
Section	10 soldiers	Non-Commissioned Officer (Usually a Havildar)
Platoon	30–36 soldiers	Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) / Lieutenant (depending on unit)
Company	100–150 soldiers	Major
Battalion	700–900 soldiers	Colonel
Brigade	3 Battalions	Brigadier
Division	3–4 Brigades	Major General
Corps	3–4 Divisions	Lieutenant General
Command	Multiple Corps	General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (Lieutenant General)

Note: The strength of formations may vary depending on the operational role and type of unit.

Remember : The **Battalion** is considered the **basic fighting and administrative unit** of the Infantry.

2.5 Commands of the Indian Army

For administrative and operational efficiency, the Indian Army is divided into **seven commands**.

These consist of:

- **Six Operational Commands**
- **One Training Command**

Command	Headquarters	Type
Northern Command	Udhampur	Operational
Western Command	Chandimandir	Operational
Eastern Command	Kolkata	Operational
Southern Command	Pune	Operational
Central Command	Lucknow	Operational
South Western Command	Jaipur	Operational
Army Training Command (ARTRAC)	Shimla	Training

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

2.6 Classification of the Indian Army

The Indian Army is broadly organised into three components:

1. Combat Arms

These are the primary fighting arms that directly engage the enemy.

They include:



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- Armoured Corps
- Mechanised Infantry
- Infantry

2. Combat Support Arms

These arms provide battlefield support to the Combat Arms.

They include:

- Regiment of Artillery
- Corps of Engineers
- Corps of Army Air Defence
- Army Aviation Corps
- Corps of Signals

3. Services

These provide logistics, medical support, equipment maintenance, administration, education, transportation, and other essential support functions.

2.7 Combat Arms

(A) Armoured Corps

The Armoured Corps forms the striking force of the Indian Army. Equipped primarily with **main battle tanks**, it delivers speed, mobility, and heavy firepower during offensive operations.

Major Role

- Offensive operations
- Rapid battlefield manoeuvre
- Armoured warfare
- Infantry support

(B) Mechanised Infantry

Mechanised Infantry combines the mobility of armoured vehicles with the flexibility of infantry soldiers.

Its soldiers move and fight using **Infantry Combat Vehicles (ICVs)**, enabling rapid deployment and enhanced battlefield protection.

(C) Infantry

The Infantry is the **largest and oldest fighting arm** of the Indian Army. It is often referred to as the "**Queen of Battle**."

Infantry soldiers capture and hold ground, conduct close combat, and operate in all terrains and weather conditions.

Major Responsibilities

- Capture enemy positions
- Defend strategic areas



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- Counter-insurgency operations
- Counter-terrorism operations
- High-altitude warfare
- Jungle warfare
- Urban warfare

Combat Arm	Primary Role
Armoured Corps	Tank warfare
Mechanised Infantry	Mobile infantry operations
Infantry	Capture and hold territory

Chapter 3

COMBAT SUPPORT ARMS & SERVICES OF THE INDIAN ARMY

"Victory is not achieved by fighting troops alone; it is made possible by those who support them."

3.1 Classification of the Indian Army

The Indian Army is broadly organised into **three major components**.

Component	Primary Role
Combat Arms	Directly engage and destroy the enemy.
Combat Support Arms	Provide firepower, mobility, communication, air defence, and engineering support to Combat Arms.
Services	Ensure logistics, medical care, maintenance, administration, education, and overall operational sustainment.

Remember

- **Combat Arms fight.**
- **Combat Support Arms help them fight.**
- **Services keep the Army fighting.**

PART – I

COMBAT SUPPORT ARMS

3.2 Regiment of Artillery

Introduction

The **Regiment of Artillery** is known as the "**God of War**" because it provides long-range firepower to support ground operations.

Artillery destroys enemy bunkers, troop concentrations, tanks, and defensive positions before infantry or armoured units advance.

Major Responsibilities



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- Provide long-range fire support.
- Neutralise enemy positions.
- Destroy enemy artillery.
- Support offensive and defensive operations.
- Fire rockets, missiles, mortars, and field guns.

Known As: God of War

3.3 Corps of Engineers

Introduction

The **Corps of Engineers**, popularly known as **Sappers**, provides engineering support during military operations. They ensure that friendly troops can move quickly while preventing enemy movement.

Major Responsibilities

- Construct bridges.
- Build roads.
- Lay and remove minefields.
- Construct bunkers.
- Demolish enemy obstacles.
- Water supply and field engineering.
- Disaster relief operations.

Motto

Sarvatra

Meaning: *Everywhere*

Remember

Wherever the Army moves, Engineers move first.

3.4 Corps of Army Air Defence

Introduction

The **Corps of Army Air Defence (AAD)** protects Army formations and strategic assets from enemy aircraft, helicopters, drones, and missiles.

Responsibilities

- Air defence of field formations.
- Protect strategic installations.
- Detect and destroy aerial threats.
- Surveillance of low-level airspace.

Motto: *Ākāśe Śatrūn Jahi*



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Meaning: *Defeat the Enemy in the Sky.*

Note: Air Defence protects **Army formations**, whereas the **Indian Air Force** protects the nation's overall airspace.

3.5 Army Aviation Corps

Introduction

The **Army Aviation Corps** operates helicopters for reconnaissance, logistics, casualty evacuation, surveillance, and tactical support.

Responsibilities

- Battlefield surveillance.
- Reconnaissance.
- Casualty evacuation (CASEVAC).
- Air observation.
- Logistic support.
- Special operations support.

Motto

Suveg Va Sudrid

Meaning: *Swift and Sure.*

Did You Know?

Army helicopters often operate in some of the world's highest battlefields, including **Siachen Glacier**.

3.6 Corps of Signals

Introduction

The **Corps of Signals** is the communication backbone of the Indian Army.

Modern warfare depends heavily on secure, reliable, and real-time communication networks.

Responsibilities

- Military communication systems.
- Satellite communication.
- Cyber security.
- Electronic communication.
- Battlefield information networks.
- Secure command and control.

Motto

Teevra Chaukas

Meaning: *Swift and Alert.*

Note: Signals = Communication



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Engineers = Mobility

Artillery = Firepower

PART – II

SERVICES

Unlike Combat Arms, Services generally do not directly engage the enemy. Their primary responsibility is to sustain the Army by providing logistics, healthcare, maintenance, legal support, education, and administration.

3.7 Army Service Corps (ASC)

Role

The Army Service Corps ensures uninterrupted logistical support to Army formations.

Responsibilities

- Transport
- Fuel supply
- Rations
- Water supply
- Supply chain management

3.8 Army Medical Corps (AMC)

Role

Provides medical care to serving personnel during peace and war.

Responsibilities

- Military hospitals
- Emergency medical treatment
- Field medical support
- Preventive medicine

3.9 Army Dental Corps (ADC)

Role

Maintains the dental health and oral hygiene of Army personnel.

3.10 Army Ordnance Corps (AOC)

Role

Responsible for procurement, storage, maintenance, and distribution of military equipment.

Supplies

- Weapons
- Ammunition
- Clothing



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- Equipment
- General stores

3.11 Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME)

Role

Maintains and repairs all military equipment.

Responsibilities

- Tanks
- Vehicles
- Weapons
- Missiles
- Communication equipment
- Radar systems

Remember

EME keeps Army equipment battle-ready.

3.12 Remount and Veterinary Corps (RVC)

Role

Provides veterinary care and manages military animals.

Responsibilities

- Horses
- Dogs
- Mules
- Breeding programmes
- Veterinary services

3.13 Army Education Corps (AEC)

Role

Promotes education and professional military training among Army personnel.

3.14 Corps of Military Police (CMP)

Responsibilities

- Military discipline
- Security
- Traffic regulation
- Investigation



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- Prisoner management

3.15 Army Postal Service (APS)

Role

Provides postal services to Army personnel, including those serving in remote operational areas.

3.16 Intelligence Corps

Role

Collects, analyses, and disseminates military intelligence.

Responsibilities

- Enemy surveillance
- Intelligence gathering
- Counter-intelligence
- Security assessment

3.17 Judge Advocate General (JAG) Department

Role

Provides legal advice to the Army and administers military justice under the relevant laws governing the Armed Forces.

3.18 Military Nursing Service (MNS)

Role

Provides professional nursing care in military hospitals and healthcare establishments.

QUICK REVISION TABLE

Corps	Primary Role
Artillery	Firepower
Engineers	Mobility & Construction
Army Air Defence	Air Defence
Army Aviation	Helicopter Operations
Signals	Communication
ASC	Logistics
AMC	Medical Care
ADC	Dental Care
AOC	Equipment & Ammunition
EME	Repair & Maintenance
RVC	Veterinary Services
AEC	Education
CMP	Military Policing
APS	Postal Services
Intelligence Corps	Intelligence Gathering
JAG	Military Law
MNS	Nursing Services



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INDIAN NAVY

"Sham No Varunah"

"May the Lord of the Oceans be Auspicious unto Us."

4.1 Introduction to the Indian Navy

The **Indian Navy** is the maritime arm of the Indian Armed Forces. It is responsible for safeguarding India's maritime interests, protecting its coastline, ensuring the security of sea lines of communication (SLOCs), and defending the nation's territorial waters against external threats.

With a coastline of over **7,500 km**, an extensive **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**, and strategic island territories, India depends heavily on the Navy to secure its maritime domain. The Indian Navy also plays a significant role in maintaining peace, stability, and security across the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

The Navy is a modern, technology-driven force equipped with aircraft carriers, destroyers, frigates, submarines, patrol vessels, naval aircraft, helicopters, and advanced surveillance systems.

4.2 Motto of the Indian Navy

Motto

Sham No Varunah

Meaning

"May the Lord of the Oceans be Auspicious unto Us."

The motto is derived from the **Taittiriya Upanishad** and reflects the Navy's commitment to protecting India's maritime interests with courage, discipline, and professionalism.

4.3 Role of the Indian Navy

The Indian Navy performs a wide range of military, diplomatic, and humanitarian responsibilities.

Its major roles include:

- Safeguard India's maritime borders.
- Protect territorial waters and maritime interests.
- Defend sea lines of communication (SLOCs).
- Protect offshore assets and strategic installations.
- Maintain maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Deter and respond to external threats at sea.
- Support joint operations with the Army and Air Force.
- Participate in multinational naval exercises.
- Assist friendly nations during humanitarian crises.

4.4 The Four Major Roles of the Indian Navy

The Indian Navy performs **four broad roles**.



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1. Military Role

The Navy protects India's maritime sovereignty and conducts naval operations during war.

Responsibilities

- Sea control
- Sea denial
- Maritime strike operations
- Coastal defence
- Protection of merchant shipping

2. Diplomatic Role

The Navy strengthens India's international relations through maritime cooperation.

Activities

- Joint naval exercises
- Port visits
- Goodwill missions
- Defence cooperation
- Maritime partnerships

3. Constabulary Role

The Navy assists in maintaining law and order at sea.

Responsibilities

- Anti-piracy operations
- Anti-smuggling operations
- Maritime surveillance
- Protection of offshore assets
- Support to maritime law enforcement agencies

4. Benign (Humanitarian) Role

Apart from combat operations, the Navy provides humanitarian assistance during emergencies.

Responsibilities

- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)
- Search and Rescue (SAR)
- Evacuation of civilians
- Medical assistance
- Relief supply distribution



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- Hydrographic surveys
- Assistance to neighbouring countries during disasters

💡 Did You Know?

The Indian Navy is often among the **first responders** during cyclones, tsunamis, floods, and other natural disasters in the Indian Ocean Region.

4.5 Organisation of the Indian Navy

For effective administration and operational control, the Indian Navy is divided into **three Naval Commands**.

Naval Command	Headquarters	Primary Responsibility
Western Naval Command	Mumbai	Arabian Sea & Western Seaboard
Eastern Naval Command	Visakhapatnam	Bay of Bengal & Eastern Seaboard
Southern Naval Command	Kochi	Training Command

Each Naval Command is headed by a **Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C)** of the rank of **Vice Admiral**.

Headquarters

Western Naval Command → **Mumbai**

Eastern Naval Command → **Visakhapatnam**

Southern Naval Command → **Kochi**

4.6 Organisational Structure of the Indian Navy

The Navy consists of several specialised branches, each responsible for a specific operational or administrative function.

The major branches include:

- Executive Branch
- Engineering Branch
- Electrical Branch
- Logistics Branch
- Education Branch
- Medical Branch

Each branch contributes to maintaining the Navy's combat readiness and operational effectiveness.

4.7 Major Branches of the Indian Navy

Executive Branch

The Executive Branch is the operational backbone of the Navy and is directly responsible for commanding ships, submarines, and naval aircraft.

Responsibilities

- Navigation



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- Gunnery
- Missile operations
- Anti-submarine warfare
- Communication
- Diving
- Aviation
- Hydrography
- Maritime operations

Engineering Branch

Responsible for the operation, maintenance, and repair of propulsion systems, machinery, and other mechanical equipment onboard ships and submarines.

Responsibilities

- Marine engineering
- Ship propulsion
- Machinery maintenance
- Technical support

Electrical Branch

Responsible for electrical, electronic, radar, weapon control, communication, and sensor systems.

Responsibilities

- Radar systems
- Sonar systems
- Weapon electronics
- Electrical power systems
- Communication equipment

Logistics Branch

Ensures uninterrupted administrative and logistical support to naval operations.

Responsibilities

- Supply chain management
- Inventory control
- Food and ration management
- Financial management
- Personnel administration

Education Branch



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Responsible for academic instruction, technical education, and professional development of naval personnel.

Medical Branch

Provides healthcare services to officers, sailors, and their families.

Responsibilities

- Naval hospitals
- Medical treatment
- Preventive healthcare
- Emergency medical support

Quick Revision Table

Branch	Primary Function
Executive	Naval Operations
Engineering	Mechanical Systems
Electrical	Electronics & Weapon Systems
Logistics	Supply & Administration
Education	Training & Academic Instruction
Medical	Healthcare Services

Important Maritime Terms

Term	Meaning
Blue Water Navy	A navy capable of operating across the deep oceans worldwide.
Aircraft Carrier	A warship designed to carry and operate fighter aircraft.
Destroyer	A heavily armed warship for air, surface, and submarine warfare.
Frigate	A versatile warship used for escort and patrol missions.
Submarine	A vessel capable of operating underwater for surveillance and combat.
Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs)	Major maritime routes used for global trade and military movement.

Chapter Summary

- The **Indian Navy** protects India's maritime interests and ensures security across the seas.
- It performs **Military, Diplomatic, Constabulary, and Benign** roles.
- The Navy is organised into **three Naval Commands**: Western, Eastern, and Southern.
- Each Command is headed by a **Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (Vice Admiral)**.
- The Navy's major branches include **Executive, Engineering, Electrical, Logistics, Education, and Medical**.
- Along with combat operations, the Navy plays a vital role in **disaster relief, search and rescue, and maritime diplomacy**.



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INDIAN AIR FORCE (IAF)

"Nabhah Sprisham Deeptam"

"Touch the Sky with Glory."

5.1 Introduction to the Indian Air Force

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is the air arm of the Indian Armed Forces. It is responsible for protecting India's airspace, defending the nation against aerial threats, and supporting military operations on land and at sea.

Established on **8 October 1932**, the IAF has evolved into one of the world's most capable air forces, equipped with modern fighter aircraft, transport aircraft, helicopters, surveillance systems, and advanced air defence capabilities.

The Indian Air Force operates across diverse missions, including air defence, offensive air operations, strategic airlift, reconnaissance, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and evacuation missions.

5.2 Motto of the Indian Air Force

Motto

Nabhah Sprisham Deeptam

Meaning

"Touch the Sky with Glory."

The motto is derived from the **Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 11, Verse 24)** and reflects the courage, excellence, and determination of the Indian Air Force.

5.3 Role of the Indian Air Force

The primary responsibility of the Indian Air Force is to secure India's airspace and safeguard the nation from aerial threats.

Its major roles include:

- Defend India's airspace from enemy aircraft and missiles.
- Conduct offensive air operations during war.
- Provide close air support to the Army.
- Support naval operations through maritime air power.
- Airlift troops, equipment, and supplies.
- Conduct strategic and tactical reconnaissance.
- Carry out search and rescue operations.
- Assist in disaster relief and humanitarian missions.
- Evacuate Indian citizens from conflict zones and disaster-affected areas.
- Provide air transport for the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, and other designated dignitaries as required.

💡 Did You Know?

The Indian Air Force has played a crucial role in major operations such as humanitarian relief during natural disasters and the evacuation of Indian nationals from conflict zones under various government missions.



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5.4 Organisation of the Indian Air Force

The Indian Air Force is broadly organised into **three major branches**, each with specialised responsibilities.

Branch	Primary Role
Flying Branch	Air operations and flying missions
Technical Branch	Aircraft maintenance and engineering
Ground Duty Branch	Administration, logistics, air traffic control, accounts, education, meteorology, and other support services

Together, these branches ensure the operational readiness of the Indian Air Force.

5.5 Commands of the Indian Air Force

The Indian Air Force is organised into **seven Commands** for effective operational and administrative control.

These include:

Operational Commands

Command	Headquarters
Western Air Command	New Delhi
Eastern Air Command	Shillong
Central Air Command	Prayagraj (Allahabad)
South Western Air Command	Gandhinagar
Southern Air Command	Thiruvananthapuram

Functional Commands

Command	Headquarters
Training Command	Bengaluru
Maintenance Command	Nagpur

Each Command is headed by an **Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C)** of the rank of **Air Marshal**.

Headquarters

- Western Air Command → **New Delhi**
- Eastern Air Command → **Shillong**
- Central Air Command → **Prayagraj**
- South Western Air Command → **Gandhinagar**
- Southern Air Command → **Thiruvananthapuram**
- Training Command → **Bengaluru**
- Maintenance Command → **Nagpur**



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5.6 Air Force Formation Hierarchy

The Indian Air Force is organised into self-sufficient operational formations.

Command



Station



Wing



Squadron



Flight



Section

Each formation has a specific operational role and command structure.

5.7 Operational Formations

Formation	Description	Commanded By
Section	Smallest operational unit (typically 3 aircraft)	Flight Lieutenant
Flight	Two Sections	Squadron Leader
Squadron	Two or more Flights; principal fighting unit	Wing Commander / Group Captain*
Wing	Two or more Squadrons	Group Captain / Air Commodore
Station	One or more Wings and support units	Air Commodore / Air Vice Marshal
Command	Multiple Stations	Air Marshal (AOC-in-C)

Note: The size and composition of formations may vary depending on operational requirements and aircraft type.

5.8 Major Functions of the Indian Air Force

Air Defence

Protects Indian airspace from hostile aircraft, drones, and missile threats.

Offensive Air Operations

Conducts precision strikes against enemy military targets during conflict.

Strategic Airlift

Rapidly transports troops, heavy equipment, ammunition, and relief material across the country and abroad.

Reconnaissance & Surveillance

Collects real-time intelligence using aircraft, satellites, radars, and airborne surveillance platforms.



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Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR)

Provides emergency relief during floods, earthquakes, cyclones, and other disasters.

Search and Rescue (SAR)

Locates and rescues civilians and military personnel during emergencies.

5.9 Categories of IAF Aircraft

Category	Primary Role
Fighter Aircraft	Air superiority and strike missions
Transport Aircraft	Troop and cargo movement
Helicopters	Tactical support, rescue, logistics
Trainer Aircraft	Pilot training
Surveillance Aircraft	Reconnaissance and early warning
UAVs/Remotely Piloted Aircraft	Intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance

Remember

Every aircraft in the IAF is assigned according to its operational role, ensuring flexibility in both combat and humanitarian missions.

Chapter Summary

- The **Indian Air Force** protects India's airspace and provides air power in peace and war.
- It operates through **Flying, Technical, and Ground Duty** branches.
- The IAF has **five Operational Commands** and **two Functional Commands**.
- Each Command is headed by an **Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (Air Marshal)**.
- Its responsibilities include **air defence, offensive air operations, strategic airlift, reconnaissance, disaster relief, and search and rescue**.

DEFENCE ORGANISATION OF INDIA

Supreme Command, Ministry of Defence & Higher Defence Management

"A strong military is guided by an efficient defence organisation."

6.1 Supreme Command of the Armed Forces

According to the Constitution of India, the **President of India** is the **Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces**.

The President exercises this authority based on the aid and advice of the **Council of Ministers**, headed by the Prime Minister.

Responsibilities

- Appoints the Chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- Appoints the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).



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- Confers gallantry awards and military honours.
- Commissions officers into the Armed Forces.
- Declares war or peace based on parliamentary approval and government advice.

✦ **Note:** *Who is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces?* **President of India**

6.2 Prime Minister

The Prime Minister provides overall political leadership and plays a central role in national security and defence policy through the Cabinet and the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).

Responsibilities

- Leads national security decision-making.
- Chairs the Cabinet Committee on Security.
- Oversees strategic defence policies.
- Coordinates with the Ministry of Defence during major security situations.

6.3 Ministry of Defence (MoD)

The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** is responsible for the administration and management of India's defence and security.

Major Responsibilities

- Formulation of defence policy.
- Defence budgeting.
- Procurement of military equipment.
- Coordination among the three Services.
- Civil-military administration.
- Defence cooperation with foreign countries.

6.4 Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

The **Department of Military Affairs (DMA)** was created in **2019** to promote greater integration among the three Services and improve military administration.

It functions under the Ministry of Defence.

Responsibilities

- Promote jointness among the Services.
- Facilitate integrated planning.
- Manage military staffing and training.
- Support theatre command reforms.
- Handle service-related matters of the Armed Forces.



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6.5 Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

The **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** is the senior-most uniformed military officer in India.

The CDS serves as the principal military adviser to the Government of India on matters related to all three Services.

Major Responsibilities

- Promote joint operations.
- Improve coordination among the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- Prioritise defence procurement.
- Facilitate integrated planning.
- Support the creation of integrated theatre commands.

💡 Did You Know?

The office of the **Chief of Defence Staff** was created to enhance coordination and integration among the three Services.

6.6 Chiefs of the Three Services

Service	Head
Indian Army	Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)
Indian Navy	Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)
Indian Air Force	Chief of the Air Staff (CAS)

Each Chief is a **four-star officer** and is responsible for the operational readiness, administration, and leadership of their respective Service.

6.7 Integrated Defence Staff (IDS)

The **Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS)** supports joint planning, coordination, and integration among the three Services.

Responsibilities

- Joint military planning.
- Inter-service coordination.
- Strategic assessments.
- Joint training.
- Support to the CDS.

6.8 Tri-Service Commands

India has specialised organisations where personnel from the Army, Navy, and Air Force serve together.

Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC)

India's first and only operational tri-service command.

Role



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- Protect the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Enhance maritime security.
- Coordinate joint military operations in the region.

Strategic Forces Command (SFC)

Responsible for the management and operational control of India's strategic forces in accordance with national policy.

Note: India's first tri-service command is the **Andaman & Nicobar Command**.

6.9 Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)

The CCS is the highest decision-making body on matters related to national security and defence.

Functions

- National security policy.
- Defence procurement approvals.
- Strategic decisions.
- Military operations requiring political approval.

Quick Revision Table

Organisation	Primary Role
President	Supreme Commander
Prime Minister	Political Leadership
Ministry of Defence	Defence Administration
Department of Military Affairs	Military Administration & Jointness
Chief of Defence Staff	Principal Military Adviser
HQ Integrated Defence Staff	Joint Planning
Andaman & Nicobar Command	Tri-Service Operational Command
Strategic Forces Command	Strategic Forces Management

Chapter Summary

- The **President of India** is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.
- The **Ministry of Defence** manages defence administration and policy.
- The **Department of Military Affairs** strengthens coordination among the three Services.
- The **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** serves as the principal military adviser to the Government.
- **HQ Integrated Defence Staff, Andaman & Nicobar Command, and Strategic Forces Command** are key institutions that enhance jointness and national defence.



INDIAN ARMED FORCES (PART-1)

RANKS & INSIGNIA OF THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES

"Rank signifies responsibility, leadership, and authority within the Armed Forces."

7.1 What is Military Rank?

A **military rank** indicates the level of authority, responsibility, and leadership held by a member of the Armed Forces. It defines the chain of command and ensures discipline and effective functioning during both peace and war.

The Indian Armed Forces follow a structured hierarchy, broadly divided into:

- Commissioned Officers
- Junior Commissioned Officers (Army only)
- Non-Commissioned Officers (Army only)
- Other Ranks (Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen)

7.2 Rank Structure of the Indian Army

Commissioned Officers

Rank	Appointment / Role
Field Marshal	Five-star ceremonial rank (highest rank)
General	Chief of the Army Staff / Senior Army Commander
Lieutenant General	Army Commander / Corps Commander
Major General	Division Commander
Brigadier	Brigade Commander
Colonel	Battalion/Regimental Command
Lieutenant Colonel	Second-in-command / Command appointments
Major	Company Commander
Captain	Company-level officer
Lieutenant	Entry-level Commissioned Officer

Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs)

Rank
1. Subedar Major
2. Subedar
3. Naib Subedar

Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) & Other Ranks

Rank
1. Havildar
2. Naik
3. Lance Naik
4. Sepoy



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7.3 Rank Structure of the Indian Navy

Commissioned Officers

Rank
Admiral of the Fleet*
Admiral
Vice Admiral
Rear Admiral
Commodore
Captain
Commander
Lieutenant Commander
Lieutenant
Sub Lieutenant

Note: The rank of **Admiral of the Fleet** exists in the rank structure but has **never been conferred** in India.

Sailors

- Master Chief Petty Officer (I & II)
- Chief Petty Officer, Petty Officer
- Leading Seaman, Seaman (I & II)

7.4 Rank Structure of the Indian Air Force

Commissioned Officers

Rank
Marshal of the Indian Air Force
Air Chief Marshal
Air Marshal
Air Vice Marshal
Air Commodore
Group Captain
Wing Commander
Squadron Leader
Flight Lieutenant
Flying Officer



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Airmen

- Master Warrant Officer
- Warrant Officer
- Junior Warrant Officer
- Sergeant
- Corporal
- Leading Aircraftman
- Aircraftman

7.5 Equivalent Officer Ranks

Army	Navy	Air Force
Field Marshal	Admiral of the Fleet*	Marshal of the Indian Air Force
General	Admiral	Air Chief Marshal
Lieutenant General	Vice Admiral	Air Marshal
Major General	Rear Admiral	Air Vice Marshal
Brigadier	Commodore	Air Commodore
Colonel	Captain	Group Captain
Lieutenant Colonel	Commander	Wing Commander
Major	Lieutenant Commander	Squadron Leader
Captain	Lieutenant	Flight Lieutenant
Lieutenant	Sub Lieutenant	Flying Officer

Note: Highest Ranks

Service	Highest Rank
Army	Field Marshal
Navy	Admiral of the Fleet*
Air Force	Marshal of the Indian Air Force

Note: Admiral of the Fleet has not been awarded in India.

7.6 Five-Star Ranks

The five-star ranks are honorary and are awarded only under exceptional circumstances.

Service	Five-Star Rank
Army	Field Marshal
Navy	Admiral of the Fleet
Air Force	Marshal of the Indian Air Force



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💡 Did You Know?

India has conferred the rank of **Field Marshal** on only **two Army officers**:

- Sam Manekshaw
- Kodandera M. Cariappa

The rank of **Marshal of the Indian Air Force** has been conferred only once, on Arjan Singh.

7.7 Important Appointments

Appointment	Rank Usually Held
Chief of the Army Staff	General
Chief of the Naval Staff	Admiral
Chief of the Air Staff	Air Chief Marshal
Army Commander	Lieutenant General
Corps Commander	Lieutenant General
Division Commander	Major General
Brigade Commander	Brigadier
Battalion Commander	Colonel

GALLANTRY AWARDS & MILITARY DECORATIONS

"Gallantry awards honour extraordinary courage, devotion to duty, and selfless sacrifice in service of the nation."

8.1 What are Gallantry Awards?

Gallantry awards are among the highest honours conferred by the Government of India on members of the Armed Forces, other uniformed personnel, and, in certain cases, civilians. They recognize exceptional courage, conspicuous bravery, and devotion to duty in the face of danger.

These awards are broadly classified into:

- **Wartime Gallantry Awards**
- **Peacetime Gallantry Awards**

8.2 Wartime Gallantry Awards

These awards are conferred for acts of bravery during war, armed conflict, or combat operations.

Order of Precedence

Award	Description
Param Vir Chakra (PVC)	Highest wartime gallantry award.
Maha Vir Chakra (MVC)	Second-highest wartime gallantry award.
Vir Chakra (VrC)	Third-highest wartime gallantry award.



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DESIGN OF MEDAL AND RIBBON



1. Param Vir Chakra (PVC)

The **Param Vir Chakra** is India's highest wartime gallantry decoration.

It is awarded for **the most conspicuous bravery, daring, or self-sacrifice in the presence of the enemy**, whether on land, at sea, or in the air.

Key Facts

- Highest wartime gallantry award.
- Can be awarded posthumously.
- Eligible for all ranks of the Armed Forces.

2. Maha Vir Chakra (MVC)

The **Maha Vir Chakra** is the second-highest wartime gallantry award.

It is awarded for acts of **conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy**.

3. Vir Chakra (VrC)

The **Vir Chakra** is the third-highest wartime gallantry award.

It recognizes acts of bravery against the enemy during combat operations.

8.3 Peacetime Gallantry Awards

These awards recognize bravery during peacetime, including counter-insurgency operations, rescue missions, and other hazardous situations not classified as wartime.

Order of Precedence

Award	Description
1. Ashoka Chakra	Highest peacetime gallantry award.
2. Kirti Chakra	Second-highest peacetime gallantry award.
3. Shaurya Chakra	Third-highest peacetime gallantry award.

1. Ashoka Chakra

The **Ashoka Chakra** is India's highest peacetime gallantry award.

It is awarded for **the most conspicuous bravery, daring, or self-sacrifice away from the battlefield**.



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2. Kirti Chakra

The **Kirti Chakra** is the second-highest peacetime gallantry award.

It is awarded for **conspicuous courage or self-sacrifice** in peacetime.

3. Shaurya Chakra

The **Shaurya Chakra** is the third-highest peacetime gallantry award.

It recognizes acts of bravery and devotion to duty in non-combat situations.

Order of Gallantry Awards

Wartime	Peacetime
Param Vir Chakra	Ashoka Chakra
Maha Vir Chakra	Kirti Chakra
Vir Chakra	Shaurya Chakra

8.4 Distinguished Service Decorations

Apart from gallantry awards, distinguished service decorations recognise exceptional service of a high order.

Major Distinguished Service Awards

Award	Purpose
Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal	Exceptional service during war/conflict.
Uttam Yudh Seva Medal	Distinguished service during war/conflict.
Yudh Seva Medal	Meritorious operational service.
Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM)	Exceptional distinguished service.
Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM)	Distinguished service of an exceptional order.
Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM)	Distinguished service of a high order.

Did You Know?

The **Param Vir Chakra** was designed by Savitri Khanolkar.

8.5 Eligibility

Gallantry awards may be conferred upon:

- Officers
- Junior Commissioned Officers
- Non-Commissioned Officers
- Soldiers
- Sailors
- Airmen
- Members of other eligible uniformed services
- Civilians (for certain peacetime awards, where applicable under the award criteria)



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🔴 Highest Gallantry Awards

Category	Award
Wartime	Param Vir Chakra
Peacetime	Ashoka Chakra

Second Highest

Category	Award
Wartime	Maha Vir Chakra
Peacetime	Kirti Chakra

Third Highest

Category	Award
Wartime	Vir Chakra
Peacetime	Shaurya Chakra

⚠️ Common Confusions

- ✗ Param Vir Chakra is **not** a peacetime award.
- ✗ Ashoka Chakra is **not** awarded for wartime gallantry.

Remember:

- Enemy in combat → Param Vir Chakra
- Exceptional bravery in peacetime → Ashoka Chakra

📄 Chapter Summary

- Gallantry awards honour acts of exceptional bravery and sacrifice.
- Wartime gallantry awards are **Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, and Vir Chakra.**
- Peacetime gallantry awards are **Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra, and Shaurya Chakra.**
- Distinguished service medals recognise exceptional service rather than acts of gallantry.
- Remember the two sequences:
 1. Param → Maha → Vir
 2. Ashoka → Kirti → Shaurya

COMMANDS OF THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES

"Commands form the operational backbone of India's military, ensuring effective control, coordination, and defence across every region of the country."



INDIAN ARMED FORCES (PART-1)

9.1 What is a Military Command?

A **Command** is the highest operational or administrative formation within a military service. It is responsible for planning, controlling, and coordinating military operations within a designated geographical area or functional domain.

Each Command is headed by a senior officer and oversees multiple operational formations, units, and establishments.

✦ **Command = Highest Operational Formation**

9.2 Commands of the Indian Army

The Indian Army is organised into **seven Commands**.

Operational Commands

Command	Headquarters
Northern Command	Udhampur
Western Command	Chandimandir
Eastern Command	Kolkata
Southern Command	Pune
Central Command	Lucknow
South Western Command	Jaipur

Training Command

Command	Headquarters
Army Training Command (ARTRAC)	Shimla

Head of an Army Command

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C)

Rank: Lieutenant General

9.3 Commands of the Indian Navy

The Indian Navy has **three Commands**.

Command	Headquarters
Western Naval Command	Mumbai
Eastern Naval Command	Visakhapatnam
Southern Naval Command	Kochi

Head of Naval Command

Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C)

Rank: Vice Admiral



INDIAN ARMED FORCES (PART-1)

9.4 Commands of the Indian Air Force

The Indian Air Force has **seven Commands**.

Operational Commands

Command	Headquarters
Western Air Command	New Delhi
Eastern Air Command	Shillong
Central Air Command	Prayagraj
South Western Air Command	Gandhinagar
Southern Air Command	Thiruvananthapuram

Functional Commands

Command	Headquarters
Training Command	Bengaluru
Maintenance Command	Nagpur

Head of Air Command

Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C)

Rank: Air Marshal

9.5 Tri-Service Commands

Some organisations function jointly with personnel from the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC)

Headquarters

Port Blair

Importance

- India's first and only operational Tri-Service Command.
- Responsible for defending the strategically important Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Enhances India's maritime presence in the Indian Ocean Region.

Strategic Forces Command (SFC)

Headquarters

New Delhi

Importance

- Responsible for the management and operational control of India's strategic forces in accordance with national policy.



INDIAN ARMED FORCES (PART-1)

9.6 Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS)

The **Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS)** supports joint planning, coordination, and integration among the three Services.

Major Functions

- Joint military planning
- Inter-service coordination
- Strategic planning
- Training integration
- Operational support to the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

Comparison Table

Service	Number of Commands	Headed By	Rank
Army	7	GOC-in-C	Lieutenant General
Navy	3	FOC-in-C	Vice Admiral
Air Force	7	AOC-in-C	Air Marshal

⚠ Common Confusions

✗ **ARTRAC is not an operational command.**

- It is a **Training Command**.

✗ **Southern Naval Command is primarily the Navy's Training Command**, not an operational theatre command.

✗ **Maintenance Command belongs to the Air Force**, not the Army.

💡 **Did You Know?** The **Andaman & Nicobar Command** is India's **only integrated operational Tri-Service Command**, bringing together the Army, Navy, and Air Force under a single commander.

📄 Summary

- A **Command** is the highest operational or administrative formation in a military service.
- The **Indian Army** has **7 Commands** (6 Operational + 1 Training).
- The **Indian Navy** has **3 Commands**.
- The **Indian Air Force** has **7 Commands** (5 Operational + 2 Functional).
- **Andaman & Nicobar Command** is India's only operational Tri-Service Command.
- **HQ IDS** and the **Strategic Forces Command** strengthen jointness and strategic coordination.
