

Chapter-21

National Security and Heroic Tradition

For any nation-state national security occupies the topmost place in the list of national interests. For a layman national security is synonymous with national interest, the meaning of which he understands is, to keep national unity and integrity by protecting geographical boundaries of the country. But why this military and territorial security is considered so important and remains often overlooked.

In any territorial part a sovereign control is essential. Efforts to safeguard its economic, social and cultural interests through its military security is considered as of national interest. National values which are associated with its very existence is an essential part of the national identity.

Army or military is an organization with armed capacity to ensure and protect the aspirations and interests of the people, nation and its administrative system.

Indian Army:- The responsibility to protect the country from outside attacks and foreign invasions rests with the army. The Indian army is always ready for solutions to the problems arising from uncertainty, instability and turmoils. Keep the national security intact amid the challenges, strategic position and global security events has been a priority of the Indian army .

There are three organs of the Indian Army- (1) Army (2). Air force (3). Navy. The Indian army works under the defense ministry of the central

government. Three armies have their chiefs who control them administratively.

Besides, in war time the Indian army has contributes significantly in establishing peace and order in many countries of the world as peace army. The army has always contributed in assisting the citizens and the administration during natural calamities like earthquake, flood, storm and riots.

Recently after the pulnama terrorist attack on security forces, the Indian air force taking prompt action, crossing and advancing through border into Pakistan, attacked on terrorist camps in Balakot area by 12 miraj 2000 fighter planes on 26 Feb., 2019. The very next day a fighter plane F-16 of Pakistani air force, violating air Indian border, attempted to attack. Suspecting the attack, the Indian Air force commanded valiant pilot wing commander abhinandan, who was flying Mig 21 at that time, to take action. Wing commander Abhinandan by his sterling understanding and undaunted courage and to the best of his capacity acted and shot down the airo plane in the air. Due to frontal attack his own Mig plane suffered damage and he had to save his life by jumping down through parachute. By mistake wing commander Abhinandan landed on Pak occupied Kashmir territory where Pakistani army captured him. Due to Geneva commitment 1949 and international pressure he was released. He pursued his early education in Jodhpur. At that time his father was working at high post in Indian Air force.

Indian Army - With a view to safeguard India's unity and integrity, the constituted army protects, The Indian territorial border. This army is basically an infantry marching on land. 15th January is celebrated as Army day. The first commander in-chief in Indian army Mr. K.M. Kariappa and the hero Sem Manekshaw of 1971 Indo-Pak war were honoured with the title of field marshal.



Indian army is equipped with atomic and sophisticated weapons. Unfailing boforce of India in Kargil war and 155 mm indigenous 'Dhanush' Gun are always on the front for firing cannons in the enemies. Arjun and T-90 (Bhisma Tank) are capable in attacking at long range distance in enemy's territory. Besides, it Agni, parthvi and Brahmos are highly sophisticated missiles with the Indian. Army which can attack the enemy anywhere on land.

Indian Air Force- It came in existence on 8 October, 1932. The chief responsibility of the Air Force is to protect Indian aerial border. Besides such protection it also performs the tasks such as providing



relief material, conducting search and save campaigns, and removing people from calamity affected areas with other branches of armed forces. During past years 'Garud' the special group of Indian army has been used as an anti terrorist squad.

In 2016 Mohana Singh, Avni Chaturvedi and Bhawna Kant joined as fighter plane pilots in the Indian Air force for the first time. Father of mohana - a resident of Jhunjhunu district has also served in Indian Air force and grandfather Ladu Ram Jat was also honoured by Veer Chakra.

The Indian Air force performed its work effectively from Goa liberation and Indo Pak war from 1965-1977 and in both the wars India was victorious. In Kargil war also, the Air force bombarded in impassable area of Jammu Kashmir and succeeded in pushing the enemy back.

In Kargil war two Mig 29 fighter planes of the Indian Air force flew into the sky to push back the Pakistani army. Squadron leader Ajay Ahuja of Kota district of Rajasthan got into Pakistani border to search for one of his separated companion. He had to jump down with the help of parachute after being

shot by Pakistani Army. Govt. of India honoured him with veer chakra for his gallantry.

Indian Air force is well equipped with Sukhoi-30, Jaguar, Miraj-2000, Mig-20 as ultramodern fighter planes and I.L-76, Hercules. A.N.- 32 as heavy cargo planes. Besides them air force possesses M.I-35, Cheeta, Chetak, Sarang named helicopters. Recently a light and high capacity fighter plane 'Tejas' manufactured by H.A.L (Hindustan Aero nautical limited) purely through indigenous technique, has been included in Indian Air force. Avox radar has been fixed on heavy planes to keep a watch on enemy. Indian air force has also established missiles like Akash and Prithvi with high striking capacity in various camps. India is an atomic rich country, but we have pledged never to initiate nuclear attack. Indian air force continues to be first choice of youth owing to its excellent life style.

Air Marshal Arjun singh leading Indian Air force in Indo-Pak war of 1965 has been awarded the rank of Marshal of the Air force.

Indian Navy-

Navy provides safety from dangers occurring in India's maritime border. Its main objective is to safeguard India's integrity, citizens and coastal estates from the dangers arising at sea. It also safeguards commerce connected with sea and sea business. After the terrorist attack in Mumbai on 26 November 2008, the total responsibility of coastal safety has been entrusted to Indian Navy which fulfils it through coordination with coastal defenders and the sea police of the state. In addition to this Indian navy also performs exceptionally well during natural calamities by providing humanitarian assistance, relief, conducting search and save drives, diving help and water survey.



Indian Navy played important role in the liberation of Goa from Portugal in 1961. On 4 December 1971 during Indo Pak war, Indian Navy surrounded Pakistan on both sides, destroyed port of Karachi and played important role in establishing East Pakistan as Bangladesh. As a token of this victory 4th December is celebrated as navy day every year. Besides it, in an United Nations Organization attempt to establish peace, Indian army also contributes through various campaigns of peace. Indian Navy has Huge armed ships such as I.N.S. Vikrant, Virat and Vikramaditya. Submarines run by nuclear energy such as I.N.S. Chakra and Arihant are capable of taking counter action promptly to any attack by enemy.

Activity-

1. Find out the names of the present Chiefs of three armies of India.
2. Acquire knowledge of main weapons, fighter planes, tanks, missiles etc. used by Indian Army and collect their diagrams

Regional Army-

The regional army has been constituted under regional army (T.A) ordinance 1948, to avail short term services from military trained Indian citizens at the time of need. Every year through consistent practice such trained youth are made competent soldiers. Thus this army provides youth an opportunity to serve their country. At the time of need this army works with regular army. Regional Army Day is celebrated on 9th October. Star cricket players like Kapil Dev and Mahendra Singh Dhoni provide their services in Indian Regional Army on the posts of Lieutenant colonel.

National Cadet Core-

Besides Indian Army and Paramilitary force, National Cadet Core (NCC) also make efforts to provide opportunity for the development of character, leadership and selfless service and similar other qualities to help them become responsible citizens of the country.

Ideal Sentence “Unity and Discipline” -

This is open for the students of schools and colleges on voluntary basis. National Cadet Core is involved in shaping the youth of the patriotic citizens of the country for army and navy.

NCC is the main training organization to strengthen the youth of the country. This came into being under National Cadet Core Ordinance, 1948. The main objective of this organization is to make the youth aware of soldierly life style and to inculcate discipline, personality development and orderly values. Cadets of this organization also work for social service and community development.

Main Wars after Independence -

Indo-Pak War 1947-48 - Soon after independence in 1947 the Hindu ruler Maharaja Hari

Singh of Muslim dominated Kashmir dreamt of Kashmir to be an independent state. At the time of partition riots also broke out in other parts of the country. To take advantage of it, Kabilai army of Pakistan attacked Kashmir. Due to this infiltration Maharaja sought help from India but India offered, Kashmir merger in India in lieu of help. After this proposal being signed by Maharaja, India pushed Pakistani army back. Soon the matter reached in United States Organization. The war ended on January 01, 1949. As the Indian Army had to retreat, some part of Kashmir fell in possession of Pakistan which is now called as Pak occupied Kashmir (POK). Presently this area is a bone of contention between two countries.

Indo-China War 1962 -

The main cause of Indo-China war was the disputed border in the Himalayan region. After the rebellious move in 1959, the asylum being sought to Tibetan religious Guru Dalai Lama in India contributed as another cause to the war. China opposed this incident and blamed India for running Anti-China activities in Tibetan region. The war began on 20th October 1962 with an attack by China army in Laddakh area. In this war 1383 Indian soldiers sacrificed their lives and 1700 soldiers were buried and never found in the snowy region. In this war Major Shaitan Singh, Major Dhan Singh Thapa, Subedar Jogendra Singh were awarded Param Veer Chakra for their bravery.

Indo-Pak War 1965 -

There were many causes of this war, out of which river water distribution and border dispute were the main. During the Operation Gibraltar, Pakistani Army planned to rebel against India. Later in 1965, Pakistan initiated war by attacking in the Kutchh region of India. Indian army retaliated to this attack. The war lasted for 17 days and Pakistan

suffered a befitting defeat, ceasefire was declared after persuasion by Russia and America.

In 1971 war Colonel Adreshir Tarapor and Hawaldar Abdul Hamid were with awarded with Paramveer Chakra for their unprecedented courage and sacrifice.

Indo-Pak War 1971 - In 1971 Indo-Pak relations reached the point of termination. During this period in East Pakistan Civil War, the situation aggravated and further worsened as the military government of Pakistan did not pay proper attention. At the same time Pakistan army attacked the Indian airports in Kashmir. In retaliation India attacked both parts of Pakistan. India took possession of East Pakistan on 16th December 1971 and it emerged as a newly independent country (Bangladesh). The war lasted for 13 days.

In 1971, Jaisalmer region of Rajasthan on Longewala border post, Major Kuldeep Singh led army with only 120 Indian soldiers fought fiercely all night against 2000 soldiers and 45 military tanks. Major Kuldeep Singh was honoured with Mahaveer Chakra for his outstanding gallantry and leadership. To commemorate this war famous producer director J.P. Dutta made 'Border' film.

Kargil War 1999-

In 1999, taking another advantage of cold weather (winter season) in India, the Pakistani army and terrorists infiltrated into Kargil district and neighboring areas of Line of Control and took possession of its main peaks. Tiger Hill, the highest peak, of this area was the nodal point of this war.



Gauging the situation, Indian army with the help of Indian Air force launched 'Operation Victory' campaign and got victory by defeating the enemy fiercely. This war campaign lasted for 60 days in which many Indian heroic soldiers also lost their lives. On 26th July 1999, Indian army successfully triumphed and since then this day is celebrated as Victory Day. Grenadier Jogendra Singh Yadav, rifleman Sanjay Kumar, Lt. Manoj Pandey, Captain Vikram Batra were honoured with Param Veer Chakra for their sterling courage and bravery shown in Kargil war.

Mr. Digendra Kumar of Rajputana rifles, a resident of Sikar district of Rajasthan, displayed indomitable bravery in this war and despite being shot by five bullets, he shot down 48 Pakistani soldiers. He unfurled the tricolor of India, after beheading Major Anwar of Pakistani Army, later he was awarded with the Mahavir Chakra.

Ideals Set by Indian Army- The heroic epic stories of chivalry, courage, bravery and sacrifices of Indian soldiers have been echoing since ages. In Rajasthan the martyrs are worshipped as local Gods. The stories of indomitable courage and sacrifice of Indian soldiers have been an ideal for present youth. At the time of war like situations, it is delightful to notice the enthusiasm of youth to assist the army. A soldier deserves a just behavior in ordinary situations too.

Indian armies are known for good conduct and soldierly spirit. Soldiers help and safeguard the natives by contributing their services in inaccessible areas and in adverse circumstances. Their zeal and emotional attachment towards their country are symbolic of their strength. Self confidence of the soldiers of the Indian army is boosted to the brim. The army showcases high ideals of dutifulness and honesty towards its country. Discipline is a key to their success. Life style of the army attracts youth.

The motto of 'Service Before Self' decides their priority. The qualities like patience, courage and fearlessness in adverse situations, distincts them from the masses. Their love for country and selfless service creates respect in our hearts for them.

Soldiers rise and work beyond constraints religion, caste etc. Army teaches us to face all problems courageously. Our soldiers have earned laurels at every field successfully. Soldiers are justifying their role in the fields of education, games, sports, politics, defense, space and technology. The first space man of India Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma, was an officer in Indian Air Force. With special reference to Rajasthan in games Lt. Colonel Rajyavardhan Singh (Olympic Medal Winner), Major Dr. Surendra Punia (Name recorded in Limca book of world record for highest medals in world medical games) and also Subedar Bajrang Takhar, Subedar Om prakash, Major Ankita Choudhary etc. have earned success in their respective fields. In the field of education, Dr. Surendra Bhaskar and Dasrath Singh have recorded their names in the Indian Book of Records.

Duties of Citizens for the Security of Country-

Both army and common citizens are responsible for the security of a country. Protection of our country is our topmost duty. We should be ready to safeguard our country, with willingness of body, mind and wealth. To fulfill ones duties, we should do the following -

1. All citizens should be respectful towards Army and Para military forces.
2. Youth should be inspired to join Army and Para military force.
3. Confidential documents or information should not be disclosed to foreigners

4. Police should be informed about any suspicious activity like spying etc.

4. At the time of war, morale of the army should be upheld by providing food, medicines and other essential things.

5. At the time of black out, accidents, fire etc, one should cooperate with administration towards making citizen security arrangements and providing first aid.

6. We should assist the army and the administration and follow their instructions.

7. Priority should be given to let first movement of army means.

Awards and Honours for Bravery -

In Indian army bravery award is given to those soldiers who have offered notable services with extraordinary bravery.

(1) Param Veer Chakra- This is the highest military honour which is provided for exemplary courage and sacrifice in combating against enemies. This award was started on 26th January 1950. Uptil now, 21 Param Veer Chakra have been awarded and most of them were posthumously. Flying officer Nirmal Jeet Singh Sekho is the only recipient of Param Veer Chakra from the Indian Air Force, rest all are from the Indian army.



Major Somnath Sharma

This honour is considered to be the most prestigious award after Bharat Ratna. Major Somnath Sharma was the first recipient of this honour posthumously for his extraordinary bravery against Pakistani army in Kashmir after independence.

(2) Mahaveer Chakra- In order of precedence, Mahaveer Chakra come after Param Veer Chakra, which is given to the soldiers for their outstanding bravery and courage.

(3) Veer Chakra- In order of precedence, **Veer Chakra** comes after Mahaveer Chakra. This is also awarded for bravery and extraordinary gallantry and sacrifice.

Besides war, at the time of peace, Indian army is awarded with the following medals for bravery and courageousness (1) Ashok Chakra (2) Kirti Chakra (3) Shourya Chakra

Contribution of Valiants of Rajasthan in Heroic Tradition of Nation - The land of Rajasthan is always known for selflessness and sacrifice. Many soldiers of Rajasthan have lost their lives for their nation. Inspired by the heroic tales of these brave soldiers, new soldiers are born on this land. After independence in 1947-48, Havaldar Major Piru Singh of Shekhawati region, of company battalion of Rajputana rifles was the first to fight against the Pakistani army with bravery and sacrificed his life.



Major Piru Singh

Major Saitan Singh

He was awarded with Param Veer Chakra posthumously, for his extra ordinary bravery and sacrifice. During China war in 1962, Major Shaitan Singh of Kumaun, a Jodhpur resident also sacrificed his life defending his mother land with exemplary bravery. He was awarded with Param Veer Chakra posthumously, by Government of India.

Rajasthan- Awards and Honours for Bravery-

Param Veer Chakra-

1. CHM Piru Singh Shekhawat (JhunJhunu)
2. Major Shaitan Singh Bhati

Mahaveer Chakra-

1. Brigadier Bhawani Singh of Jaipur
2. Lieutenant Colonel Kishan Singh, Ghadsisar, Bikaner
3. Naik Digendra Kumar
4. Lieutenant General Hanut Singh

Ashok Chakra-

1. Captain Mahendra Singh Tanwar, Rajasthan Rifle (Sikar)
2. Defender Sultan Singh Rathore, Mumdola- Didwana
3. Second Lieutenant Punit Nath Dutt, Jaipur

Kirti Chakra-

1. Captain karni Singh Rathore (later Colonel) Lakhau, Churu
2. Hawaldar Amar Singh Rathore, Ram Das, Jodhpur
3. Cononel Sourabh Singh Shekhawat (21 Para commando, Special force)

Shourya Chakra-

1. Cononel Sourabh Singh Shekhawat (21 Para commando, Special force) village- Dhani Daulat Singh, Alwar

Veer Chakra-

1. Squadron Leader Ajay Ahuja
2. Naiab Subedar Ram Pal Singh, Kotputli, Jaipur

Sena Medal-

1. Cononel Sourabh Singh Shekhawat (21 Para commando, Special force)
2. Major Bhanu Pratap Singh (8 Rajputana Rifles/43 national Rifles)

Special Service Medal-

1. Brigadier Govind Singh Rathore VSM
2. Major Surendra Punia (Rajpura, Sikar) Special force, body guard of president AMC, World Medical Games.
3. Cononel Sourabh Singh Shekhawat (21 Para commando, Special force)

Glossary-

Terrorism- Violent activities carried out for various selfish interests by anti-national elements.

Peace Army- The army of member countries constituted by UNO to restore order and stop war between two countries.

Black Out- Keeping public places and houses in dark (lights off) during war.

Practice Questions

1. Choose appropriate alternative-
(i) The supreme commander-in-chief of all three armies is-

(a) The Prime Minister of the country

(b) The Chief of the army

(c) The President of the country

(d) The Chief of the navy

(ii) When is army day celebrated -

(a) 1 April (b) 15 January

(c) 4 December (d) 26 January

(iii) Students can joinfor military education with-

(a) Regional army (b) Paramilitary force

(c) Special protection force (d) NCC

2. Complete the blank spaces-

(i) Indian army works under of central government.

(ii) In India the highest bravery medal is in army awards.

(iii) Kargil war between India and Pakistan took place in the year

3. What are the three organs of the Indian army?

4. What are the awards and honours for bravery in Indian army?

5. Write at least five duties of citizens for ensuring security of the country.

6. Briefly Introduce Indian air force and describe its functions.

7. Describe post independence wars of India with other countries.

Answer of objective questions

1. () 2. () 3. ()