The peace time duty of an army usually consists of training — individual and collective; research and development; and to aid and help the civil administration in maintaining law and order whenever the competent civil administrative authorities need and request for such help.

The individual training has different facets; e.g., the training of recruits and cadets, the various professional courses, promotion cadres etc., and the collective training ranges from section battle drill to Army manoeuvre, passing through all the intermediate levels, i.e., tactics at platoon, company, unit, brigade, division and corps level. Thus the whole period is consumed only in maintaining the fighting fitness of the soldiery.

With the development of science and technology, new weapons, armaments etc., are being continuously developed in all countries — small or big. Any such new invention has direct and indirect effects on the war machinery. The armed forces have to develop new techniques of offence and defence keeping pace with the scientific and technological advancement. In reality, the human progress
in science and technology is making the war and preparation for the same more complicated and difficult. But as the ever-inquisitive man will never cease to acquire new knowledge and to produce new weapons, the war machinery also shall have to keep pace with the same and remodel its organisation to suit the new demands of the improved technology.

The role of Indian armed forces in peace is significant — it has played a great role both at home and abroad in maintaining law and order.

While the Second World War was in the fifth year, and the Indian Armed Forces were committed to various threats of war on the globe, the soldiers helped to clear locusts from the north-western areas and restore communications after Kangra Valley cloud-burst. In the same year they saved hundreds of lives and salvaged huge quantities of materials in Bombay which was rocked by an explosion in the docks.

The work done by the Army and the Air Force during the difficult days following partition of India constitutes an ennobling and inspiring chapter in the effort to consolidate national freedom and is a glowing tribute to loyalty, high sense of duty and patriotism of the Armed Forces. Apart from the saving of thousands of men, women and children from the communal frenzy, the Military Evacuation Organisation escorted long columns of refugees on the move by road and railways to safety. The largest refugee camp at Kurukshetra,
a city of tents providing shelter to nearly a quarter million men, women, and children was laid out and run by the Army.

On innumerable occassions the Indian armed forces, since independence, have stood by the side of the people of India in times of distress and natural calamities; some of which are mentioned below as illustrations.

Partition of the country had left the state of Assam isolated from the rest of the country. The soldiers of Indian Armed Forces worked ceaselessly, ignoring the heavy monsoon and built embankments and river bunds which made it possible for the vital 145 miles link to be constructed. The volume of work done by them measured upto 1,80,00,000 cubit feet.

In 1950, when the state of Bihār was passing through serious calamities, and in parts of the state famine seemed imminent, Army helped to avert the famine by transporting 8000 maunds of food grains within three weeks even to the remotest villages in those areas.

In July, 1952, Air Force 'Dakotas' flew 1187 hours in eight days to supply food to the marooned people in the flood affected areas in West Bengal.

During the 'Operation Rayalaseema' in 1952, Army units deepened 134 wells, in about six weeks time, to produce a perennial water supply in the four districts of Cuddāpāh, Kurnool, Anantpur and Chittoor.

In 1953, Army opened a road which had been blocked
for more than a week owing a landslide near the village Pophli in Maharastra.

In the same year, the Air Force conducted a novel experiment of sowing seeds from the air in Rajasthan to check the spreading of the desert, and also undertook an aerial photographic assignment of 22,000 square-miles in the Rajasthan desert in connection with oil-prospecting.

In consonance with the policy of the Government of India, the armed forces of India have played immaculate role in making sure the 'world peace'. Chou-en-lai, Prime Minister of Chinese People's Democratic Republic, during the course of his second visit to India, in his address to the cadets of the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla said: There are two kinds of Armed Forces in this world ...... those which oppressed and bullied people and those which protected them from oppression. The defence forces in India and China were armies of the people. They would never be used for oppression or aggression but only for the defence of the mother land.

But the armed forces of India are possibly singularly unique in the history that within a short period of six years of national freedom, they have been called upon to defend international freedom and world peace.

In 1953, units of Indian Army went to Korea to provide a certain custodian force. Major General (later Lt. General) P.S.P. Thorat was the commandant of the custodian
The camping ground of the Indian Armed Forces in Korea was built by themselves in a record time and was named 'Hind Nagar'. The Hind Nagar became a meeting ground of Korean people and a fountain head of mutual love, affection, tolerance and understanding. It must be mentioned that the custodian force contributed by India was the first group of 'men under colours' to be entrusted with the task to restore and stabilise peace, rather than engage themselves in combat actions.

Again in 1956, Indian Armed Forces went to Egypt as the 'Police Force' of United Nations Organisation (UNO) to help maintain quiet during and after the withdrawal of non-Egyptian troops. Indian soldiers worked there round the clock with only four to six hours respite for the individual soldier. After endearing themselves to every Egyptian and every member of United Nations stationed in Egypt, the Indian contingent returned home in 1957.

Similarly, when the Security Council set up a Control Commission in Indo-China to look after the new regimes in Viêt-nam, Cambodië and Laos, the chairmanship of this Commission was offered to India. Indian troops successfully performed their duties bestowed on them. Similar jobs were undertaken by the Indian troops in Lebanon, Congo and Yemen.

For the humanitarian causes the services performed by the Indian troops in neighbouring countries are also worth
mentioning. In 1956, Army medical supplies rushed to Egypt and Hungary and in 1964 an Army medical team flew to Laos.

With close assistance and advice selected Indian officers set up military academies at Nigeria and Ethiopia, As a token of friendship our military engineers constructed the long 72 miles Tribhuvan Rajpath in Nepal and the men of Signal Corps extended their full co-operation in conducting the general election of that country.

In Cyprus also when violent clashes flared up between the Greek Cypriots and Turkis Cypriots, Indian forces went as a contingent of UN Emergency Force to restore peace, normalcy and amity.

Organisation of Modern Armed Forces:

Earlier we have noticed two, four, six and eight fold divisions in organisation of armed forces in India. At present, in India three fold divisions of armed forces exist, i.e., Army, Navy and Air forces; but the ultimate control to use these forces lies with the people and the defence policy is also based on the political and foreign policy of the country.

In the following pages the organisational pattern of these forces is given in a nutshell.

The President of India is the Supreme Commander of all the three armed forces according to our constitution. Though the ultimate control lies with the people of the
country but in practice defence policy is formed by the Central Cabinet through a committee known as 'The Defence Committee of the Cabinet'. The orders or policies of this committee are passed to the Ministry of Defence. As an elected representative of the people and the member of the Central Cabinet the Defence Minister is responsible to the Parliament and the Defence Ministry is responsible for coordination of works of the army, navy and air services, to control all the three inter-services organisations and to assist the Minister-in-charge of defence in all legislative, parliamentary and financial matters. Here again the Financial Advisor attached to the Defence Ministry have control over the expenditure and their concurrence is required for any extra expenditure over the budgetary provisions. The three chiefs of staff (army, navy and air) after discussing among themselves about matters of inter-service interest advise the Defence Minister and his committee on matters requiring the consideration of the Central Government. They also prepare defence plans and strategic appreciations for the consideration of the Defence Minister's Committee.

Army: The Chief of the Army Staff acts as the head of Indian Army. He is responsible for the command, control, training and administration of the Indian Army. He functions through the principal Staff Officers' Committee consisted of one Vice-Chief of the Army Staff, four Staff Officers and three other senior officers having special duties. He maintains a central Head Quarter (HQ) having
four main branches but he does not maintain any field army. These branches are divided into various Directorates functioning under senior army officers. These Directorates are again sub-divided into a number of sections working under the command and control of first and second grade staff-officers.

This Head Quarter exercises its command and control through four Command Head Quarters (CHQ). Each Command Head Quarter is responsible for the operation, training, administration of field formations and functioning of Units under its command. This Command HQ acts as a field Army HQ and is responsible for the following functions within its jurisdiction: (a) Internal security, (b) Recruiting centres, (c) Training centres, (d) Military lands and cantonments, (e) Military engineering services works, (f) Administration of all departments and (g) Training and administration of Territorial Army and National Cadet Corps.

Under the Command HQ again there are several Area and Sub-Area Head Quarters having the functions similar to Command HQ and various other jobs are done according to the need and necessity of the country.

Navy: Just like army, the Naval Head Quarter at the centre is headed by the Chief of Naval Staff and his principal Officers' Committee consists of Vice-Chief of Naval Staff, Chief of personnel, Chief of materials, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff and the Naval Secretary. The Chief of Naval
Staff is responsible for all matters relating to Navy and he performs his functions with the help and co-operation of the above mentioned five Principal Staff Officers. Specific duties are allotted to each Principal Staff Officer (PSO).

The Naval HQ administers the Navy through the following four Naval Commands — Southern Naval Command, Eastern Naval Command, Western Naval Command and The Western Fleet.

Under each Command there are several ships and specific duties like training, operation, administration, communication etc., are attached. Each Command is commanded by a Flag Officer-Commanding-in-Chief, and he is responsible for all duties allotted to him within the sea and shore areas allocated to him by the Naval Head Quarter.

Air Force: The Air Force also maintains a Central Head Quarter which is commanded by the Chief of the Air Staff. He is assisted by four Principal Staff Officers. They are Vice-Chief of the Air Staff, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, Air Officer-in-Charge—Administration and Air Officer-in-Charge — Maintenance. Each Principal Staff Officer is assisted to perform his duties by several Directors under him. There are altogether twenty-four Directors functioning under four Principal Staff Officers.

Under the Air Head Quarter there are five Air Commands namely — Central Air Command, Eastern Air Command,
Western Air Command, Training Command and Maintenance Command. Each Command functions under the command of an Air Marshal.

The Eastern, Western and Central Commands are responsible for operational training and training of the paratroopers. Training Command controls the training schools and colleges whereas the maintenance Command is responsible for maintenance service, equipments and repair depots management and administration. On the whole Indian Air Force performs various types of jobs such as defence, offence, tactical, reconnaissance, transport support, air supply, air-dropping, evacuation of casualties, training, collecting weather information, maintenance etc. All these jobs are done with the help of different types of aircrafts and Indian Air Force possesses about twenty different types of aircrafts.

History of Modern Army: "The Military history is not only different from the political history of a nation, but is also distinguished from the Regimental history or History of the Army. The Military history includes a broad study of the war — its nature and causes, types, stages, the strategy and tactics, principles of war; as also the major tactics of notable commanders. In addition to the actual wars, the military history includes the study of the theories postulated by the great military thinkers.

The study of military history of one's own nation
is essential for the better understanding of military character of the nation with its strong and weak points — which have persisted through ages, in knowing well the types of war and the tactics to which the nation is more suited. The study of military history helps to avoid repetition of the past mistakes and to anticipate the future pattern of war. So to say the need for studying military history is to widen the knowledge about warfare and to learn the lessons of the past for its application in future warfare.

The history of modern Indian Army can be divided into the following three periods:

(1) Army under the East India Company;
(2) Army under the British Government; and
(3) The Post-Independence Army.

(1) The Army under the East India Company: The modern Indian army is the direct descendant of the army raised about 300 years ago by the Britishers on the British pattern but with a few reforms to suit Indian condition.

In the 17th century, those foreigners who came to India felt that here the social and political conditions were too much disturbed and insecure. They tried to strengthen their position with the help of locally recruited sepoys. Probably, the first sepoy corps was raised at Pondicherry by Dumas. The Portuguese came first to establish business houses at Goa, Diu, Daman and Madras. After a short stay the Britishers chased them out of trade and local politics.
The Britishers raised the first unit of army in Bombay when this state was granted to king Charles II as a part of dowry. In the year 1668, this troop having the strength of about 200 men and officers were transferred to serve under the East India Company. Again in 1683 two more companies were raised of 100 Rājput soldiers and officers in each and these companies were commanded by their own officers. They may be considered as the fore-runners of the Present Indian Army. Later on in 1702, numerous British trading companies were united and their forces were organised in the Presidencies of Bengal, Bombay and Madras. The chief of each Presidency was appointed as the Commander-in-Chief of his own area. In 1748, each Presidency raised an Artillery company having five officers and 110 other ranks.

In 1748, centralisation of armed forces took place under Major Stringer Lawrence, as the Commander-in-Chief of three Presidency forces but in fact the three armies worked as separate entities due to poor communication system. But during Anglo-French wars Royal troops landed in Madrās in 1755 and then onwards we find in India three types of troops such as — King's troops, Company's European troops and Company's Indian troops. Colonel Clive was the first person to command the Indian troops and organise them into regular battalions under British officers. 'Lāl Fulton' was the first battalion consisting of three British officers, one Sgt. Major, one Adjutant, ten Subedārs, thirty Jamādārs
(now Nāib-Subedār), fifty Māvilders, forty Nāiks and Seven hundred sepoys (now Jawāns). Only after two years, in 1757, Clive with a small force defeated the Nawāb of Bengal in the mango-grove battle of Palāssey in the district of Murāshābād. This battle was decided not by the superiority of Company’s forces but by the treachery of the Nawāb’s army.

In 1759 the post of Indian Subedar Major was abolished and a few more new battalions were raised in Bengal, Bombay and Madrās and the Britishers were given appointment as Battalion Commandants and Company Commanders. Guns manned by Indians were introduced in 1776. Two three-pounder guns were provided to each battalion but it was withdrawn shortly as the Britishers thought to keep the Indians ignorant about the theory and practice of gunnyery.

The year 1796 was the year of reorganisation. The regimental system was introduced. Company’s forces were organised into eleven regiments and each regiment was commanded by an English officer not below the rank of a Colonel. At first each regiment consisted of two battalions but in 1824 this system was broken and one battalion regiment started and the number of regiments was increased to twenty-three. Here again cavalry was organised on a system (sillādār) in which the soldiers provided their own charger, arms and uniforms.

Then came the year of revolt, the first organised
fight for Indian independence. The Indian forces made the unsuccessful attempt to evict the British from Indian soil. The revolt of 1857 started first in Bengal and then spread out in whole of India. Though it was an unsuccessful attempt yet it lighted the fire that kept burning in all Indian hearts. The revolutionaries showed valour, courage and sacrifices of the highest order for the cause of their mother-land. Britishers however took this revolt as a mutiny and many such mutinies were already on records of East India Company. The sepoys of Bengal Presidency first mutinied for higher pay in 1764 and only a year later British officers too posted in Bengal revolted for higher allowances. A more grave mutiny by the sepoys of Madrás broke out at Vellore in 1806 and they killed most of the British officers within the fort. The main cause was probably the hurt to the religious feelings and customs of those sepoys. Again in 1824, the sepoys of Barrackpore mutinied. They declined to march without proper equipments and necessary essential facilities. As a result, a particular Native Infantry was massacred. Over and above, the Indians were dissatisfied in military service, because this services offered little prospects to them in comparison with the status, respect and privileges enjoyed even by the British non-commissioned officers (NCOs).

The main reasons that led to the revolt of 1857 can be enumerated as follows:
(1) The high caste Hindu sepoys were unwilling to overseas service.

(2) The soldiers of Oudh Army, then in the service of the Company’s Indian troops carried their loyalty to the Nawāb of Oudh who was dispossessed in 1856.

(3) Indian sepoys always stood for their religion. There was a feeling of proselytisation because in Madras army the christians were having a better status and prospect.

(4) British laws like widow remarriage and the abolition of ‘Sati’ system hurt the religious sentiment of the simple hearted Indian soldiers.

(5) Introduction of new type of cartridge greased with cow and pig fat and whose cap had to be torn off by the sepoys with their teeth before use was the immediate cause of the revolt.

Soldiers of the Bengal Army only joined the revolution, but the Bombay and Madras armies were loyal to the company. This revolt turned to a war when the garrison at Meerut joined in the revolt and occupied Delhi. The revolutionaries initially gained little success but due to shortage of resources and lack of leadership the revolution failed by June 1858.

The revolution brought many changes in the political and military set up in Indiē. Mughal emperor Bāhādur Shāh was exiled and Queen Victoria took over the rule of India by a proclamation on 1st November, 1858. There was no more
Company Rule and a Viceroy was appointed at Delhi. Except one battalion, the whole of the Bengal Army was disbanded and still to-day there is no Bengal Regiment in Indian Army. The distinction between European troops and Royal troops vanished. Artillery battalions of the three Presidency Armies were disbanded. Company's forces became the forces of the Crown. The British officers got Queen's Commission and the Indian officers were granted Viceroy's Commission.

(2) The army under the British Government: After the mutiny or the revolt, when the forces in India became the forces of the Crown there was a large scale change in the establishment of Indian troops. Indian artillery was totally abolished and the Cavalry was reorganised on 'Silladar' system. The class company regiments - i.e., each company in a battalion having one class of men only - were introduced and a water-tight compartment policy was enforced in the army to prevent any development of dangerous feelings or identity.

Further reorganisation took place between the periods 1861 and 1865. Indian army now possessed the total strength of 142 Infantry Regiments, 42 Cavalry Regiments, 9 Artillery batteries, 3 Sapers and Engineers units. Over and above a departmental Corps and a Military Accounts Department were there for smooth running and management of the supply, pay and accounts of all the forces of the Crown. A Staff Corps was also established to look after all the three Presidency armies.
In 1878 when Eden Committee was appointed a further reformation came in. As a result four Cavalry Regiments and eighteen Infantry Regiments were reduced but the number of men in these regiments were increased and the Ordnance, Transport and Supply units were unified.

Again in 1895 all the three Presidency armies were abolished and four geographical Commands — Bengal, Bombay, Punjab and Madras — were formed and each was placed under direct command and control of a newly appointed Lieutenant General but a few special troops were placed under direct control of the Government of India.

While Lord Kitchen took the charge of Indian army as the Commander-in-Chief in the year 1902, he found that the troops were scattered all over India without any proper plan or organisation into formation. He formed two Commands — the Southern Command and the Northern Command. Each Command was commanded by a General along with its complete staff. Each Command consisted of five Divisions with power of independent actions. Regiments were renumbered on all India basis and they were trained together during peace period in formations they would belong to at the time of war. He further laid down that every unit of the army must gain experience of North-West Frontier state. This plan was in force till the First World War broke out.

During First World War Indian Army suddenly expanded about four times of its size but the soldiers were
very poorly equipped. Still, Indian soldiers fought a heroic fight in all threats of war and kept high their good name at home and abroad. They fought side by side with the troops of the friendly countries in France, Egypt, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, Persia and Greece and got twenty-one Victoria Crosses as a mark of recognition of their heroic fight.

In 1919 a committee was formed under Lord Esher to rectify the defects in organisation of the Indian Army detected during the First World War. In 1921, Lord Rawlinson took charge as Commander-in-Chief. Assuming the office he started to implement the recommendations of the Esher Committee. At first he firmly established the regimental system and the battalions with similar class composition were grouped together with one of them as training centre and thus nineteen regiments were formed. A few Infantry and Cavalry regiments were Indianised by Indian officers and for that purpose a military academy was established at Dehradun to impart training to the Indian officers. Revival of field artillery after a long period was another big step. He modernised the army and at the same time stationed Royal Air Forces and Royal Tank Corps in India. The Indian Army was given following jobs such as — (a) to guard the frontiers during peace and to work as screen during major operations as covering troops; (b) as a field army ready to fight to war; (c) to help in civil administration and (d) to
guard the vital places like water supply, power houses, railways, communication centres etc., when required. However, the organisation of the Gorkha regiments was not disturbed and they were commanded by British officers.

Till the outbreak of Second World War, Indian army consisted of cavalry, horsed artillery and unmechanised foot soldiers. Except a few motor transport companies, most of the transports were animal transports. In 1938, the Auchinleck Committee submitted a very gloomy report about the standard of Indian army in comparison with the standard of other countries in those days. On the basis of the Auchinleck Committee's report, in September 1939, the Chatfield Committee placed a scheme for modernisation of Indian army and immediate actions were taken to give effect to the scheme because war had already started. During Second World War, Indian Army expanded enormously without making any conscription. Then the army was much mechanised and the cavalry was provided with armour. Indian soldiers fought in Africa, Abyssinia, Ārakān, Burma, Hongkong, Greece, Jāvā, Italy, Irāq, Mālaya, Somālilands, Syriā and Eritreā and emerged out of the war, as a most formidable fighting force.

During the war, the political leaders of Britain and India were making negotiation about the transfer of power to India and as a result India got its freedom on 15th August, 1947. In the meantime Indian troops were sent
in different parts of the world such as — Greece, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand and Indo-china — to restore law and order.

Then came the partition of India. The partition council divided the Indian Forces from the date of transfer of power so that both Indian Union and Pakistan might have each the share of store and equipment. After partition India possessed 45 regiments of about 250000 men and six regiments of Gorkhas. The remaining Gorkhas were attached to the British army. The British soldiers in India were withdrawn in a planned way and the last British troop that left Indian soil on 28th day of February, 1948 was the 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry. A few British officers however remained in technical branches or in advisory capacities for some years more.

(3) Post-Independence Army of India: The army of a country is not merely a collection of men with weapons but a living entity with one body, one soul and one brain. So, naturally with the political division of the country a very delicate problem cropped up in regard to the division of Indian Army. However, this problem was solved without any chaos.

Independence in India brought a few basic changes in Indian army. Firstly, the three arms of Indian Armed Forces — Army, Navy and Air — were placed under three Commanders-in-Chief. Next the recruitment in all the branches was thrown open to all Indian citizens on regional basis and
the State Forces were merged with the Indian Army. Finally, the men holding the rank under Viceroy's Commission were redesignated as Junior Commissioned Officers (J.C.Os).

After the partition of India, while the heat of communal tension was still to die out, Pakistan attacked Kashmir in September - October, 1947. On 22nd October the raiders crossed the Kashmir frontier, captured Uri, Baramula and knocked at the gate of Srinagar. On 26th October, immediate decision was taken to accept accession of the State in the Indian territory and to provide armed protection. Next morning Indian soldiers were air-lifted to Srinagar. The moral of the civilian and air-force pilots along with the soldiers were so high that they set an example in the history of warfare to fight with no previous planning and with so many handicaps. Baramula was reoccupied on 8th November of the same year and within a week invaders were thrown off beyond Uri. Indian soldiers recaptured Jhangar, Tithwal, Naushera and Mendhar in the bitterly cold and inclement weather of February 1948 fighting fiercely and courageously in thick forests at high altitude beyond the snow-line. Indian troops made a miracle by taking seven tanks secretly at the height of 11,500 feet to Zoji La and captured two difficult position of Dras and Kargil. At last, India at the instance of United Nations' Commission signed a cease-fire agreement to be in force on the midnight of the New-year's day, 1949 all through the Jammu and Kashmir front.
While Indian troops were engaged in the Kashmir operation, a fanatic religious organisation named as Rāzā-kārs started subversive activities within the state of Hyderabad. Indian Army entered the state of Hyderabad on 15th September, 1948 and within four days broke the resistance of the Rāzākār and restored law and order of the state. As a result Hyderabad became a part of Indian Union.

The next twelve years, in the military history of India, is a period of establishing new traditions and customs. During this period the National Defence College, Defence Services Staff College and the School of Land and Air Warfare are established. Moreover, the State Forces are absorbed into the Indian Army and Hindi Words of command are introduced.

Again in the year 1962 India is in trouble on the Himalayan border with China. On 20th October, the Chinese soldiers launch a massive attack both in Ladak and in NEFA. Indian soldiers fight hard in spite of many odds. Still the battle of Walong will be remembered for many years more and it is worth mentioning here that the enemy soldiers could not capture the Chusul airfield. As the Chinese attacked suddenly, they declared also suddenly an unilateral cease-fire on 21st November 1962. This Chinese aggression is an eye opener to the India’s Defence Department. India starts to reorient its defence efforts. As a result the strength of Indian army is raised considerably, greater stress is imposed on training under actual field conditions, 'commando'.
courses are introduced, a good number of training centres are opened and modern weapons and equipments have been designed to increase the fighting efficiency. On the organisational side, a new post of Vice-Chief of Army Staff is created, a new Directorate of Combat Development is established and the number of Command increases from three to four.

The stops taken by the Defence Department of India after the Chinese aggression in respect of planning and preparation is paid back with good dividends when in April, 1965 Pakistan launched attacks in Kutch and in Kargil. Though at the initiation of friendly countries a cease-fire agreement is signed between India and Pakistan, the peace is for a short period and only after four months Pakistan again starts a full-fledged naked attack on Indian soil.

**History of modern Naval Force** : Though the growth and development of the modern Indian Army is very interesting and eventful, yet to get a complete picture of the Indian Armed Forces a thought is to be given to the other two services — the Navy and the Air Force.

On the fall of Maratha power and the rise of the British, Indian shipping again got a great impetus from the East India Company. Naval service, which may be called as the precurser of the present Indian Navy, was formed much earlier than the Company captured the political power in India.
This marine service was formed in 1612 at Surat as a fighting force for the defence of the Company's trade route on Indian waters, only with four ships — Dragon, Hoscander, James and Soloman.

In 1615, when the Company acquired Bombay, whole marine establishment was shifted from Surat to Bombay in 1686. From 1612 to 1686 the fleet was known as the Honourable East India Company's Marine. Since then until 1830, it was called as the Bombay Marine and from 1830 to 1862 as the Indian Navy. Then again it was called as Bombay Marine till 1877. From 1877 to 1892 its name was His Majesty's Indian Marine and again in 1892 it was renamed as the Royal Indian Marine. Side-by side, with the progress, ship-building developed in India and many changes happened in its constitution from time to time.

This navy had many exploits to its credit and joined in wars both in East upto China and in the West, Persian Gulf, African coast and even in Europe. It is said to have participated in the Napoleonic Wars and Indian built ships also actually fought at Trafalga.

Till early 20th century noting remarkable changes took place in the history of Indian Naval Force. The recent history of the Indian Navy can be dated from 1920 onwards. In this year some efforts were made to build up a regular Naval Force for India and Admiral Lord Jellicoe was given charge to study the problem. However, no action was taken.
on his report for reorganisation, except the appointment of a Flag Officer to command the Navy. The next step taken was more unfortunate. On the basis of the Inchcape Committee report in 1923, the three troop-ships were sold out and the station ships were virtually reduced to lighthouse tenders. Then, failing to get reasonable support from the then government, Rear-Admiral Mawby made a strong protest and resigned from his appointment as Director of the Royal Indian Marine.

This action of Mawby was immediately followed by the appointment of a committee under Lord Rawlison. This committee recommended for complete reorganisation of the Service as a combatant force. As a result of the recommendations of this committee, on 6th February, 1926, the foundation of Indian Navy was laid as the Royal Indian Marine as a combatant force to enable India to take the first step in providing her own Naval Defence in future. Despite all these, it was only in September, 1934, the Royal Indian Navy was officially constituted and it was not till 1938, Lord Chetfield made recommendations for the Defence Service of India. On 8th September, 1934, the Indian Legislature passed the Indian Navy Discipline Act.

Till 1939, this Service possessed only seven small ships and a plan for future expansion. By this time Second World War started. Due to war the tempo of expansion started suddenly and the rate of expansion became very rapid. Large number of Merchant vessels were requisitioned and converted
into man-of-war; orders for new vessels and stoops were placed in England and Australia and the yards in Bombay, Karachi and Calcutta were crowded with new keels. Indian Navy thus expanded from a force of 2,000 officers and men to a total strength of over 30,000. The Royal Indian Navy undertook convoy duty in the Indian Ocean and the North-Atlantic, assisted in various evacuation operations and acted in support of the Army. After the war some Indian vessels proceeded to Japan as part of the occupation force.

By 1945, the Royal Indian Navy was composed of 60% British and 40% Indian officers. Other officers, signalmen, artificers and gunners — all fine sea-men — came from Ratanagiri district, long fed on the high traditions of Maratha naval warfare. Men from other parts of India also joined later on and many of them displayed remarkable bravery and leadership in fierce sea battles.

The Indian Navy, which boastfully flies its own ensign to-day was born with India's independence. Before 15th August, 1947, India got a small force of old ships and escort vessels which was merely an adjunct of the Royal Indian Navy. With the partition of India this small force was further reduced, and India faced with a challenging situation. The challenge was accepted. Plans on a large scale were worked out and executed, training and technical schools were established and serious steps were taken to build our own Navy, balanced in all respect.
After independence, in order to adjust to the changed situation of the country certain steps were taken. First of all, in 1948, the Navy came under an independent Commander-in-Chief, directly responsible to the Defence Minister.

On 26th January, 1950, this Service dropped the prefix 'Royal' and became Indian Navy with new Indian Naval ensign.

On May 1951, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then President of India, as the Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces, presented the President's Colour to the Indian Navy at Bombay.

Since Independence, one of the aims of the Government is to completely 'Indianise' the Navy as early as possible. As a major step towards Indianisation, on April 22, 1958, Vice-Admiral R.D. Katari took over the command of the Indian Navy as first Admiral from Vice-Admiral Sir Stephen Garlill, the last British Chief of the Naval Staff.

The Defence Plan 1964-69, envisages the maintenance of the Navy at its present strength and replacement of older ships by modern vessels. Since then Indian Navy is flourishing day by day with confidence in all aspects and to-day Indian Naval Force may be considered as a big power in the world.

History of modern Air Force: The Indian Air Force is of recent origin and is the youngest of the three services.
The air-ships to be used in war was not known to the modern world before First World War.

In 1910, the Commander-in-Chief in India received the first official application from an officer of the Indian Army for employment as an airman. His request was not granted and then the flying in India remained in the hands of private enterprise.

In 1912, an officer of the Royal artillery attended army manoeuvres at Rawalpindi (now in Pakistan) with an early type biplane and a French pilot. Both the pilot and the airship were imported in India at the officer's personal expenses. Soon it was decided to establish an Indian Flying School at the deserted cantonment of Sitapur, and the staff was provided by the officers of the Indian Army who learnt flying at their own expense in England and successfully completed a course with the Royal Flying Corps at Fornborough. By 1914, the first course of instruction started but at the outbreak of the First Great War the flying school was demolished and its staff and airships were devoted to active service in the field.

The Indian flying unit, which may be considered as the embryo of the Royal Air Force in India, first experienced active service with the Indian Expeditionary Force despatched to Egypt in 1914. In 1915, the first detachment of the Royal Flying Corps reached India at Nowshera and subsequently at Risalpur.

The period from 1916-18 was one of intensive training
and no major air operation took place but sometimes flights were despatched for operation on the North-West Frontier. The experience thus gained led to the decision of developing India's Air Force. Though very slowly but this progress continued steadily. In 1919, there were only nine Indian Commissioned officers, but the number rose to 91 in 1929.

Just after the First Great War this new organisation had to face great financial stringency and in 1922 the state of the Air Force in India became a subject of special enquiry by a distinguished officer of the Royal Air Force. As a result, though further development was hindered it helped much to attain higher standard of efficiency.

After independence, the utility of the air power was first experienced during the Kashmir campaign. It was felt that a nation deficient in air power can not hope even to defend herself, but then our Air Force was far from being well developed.

As India was conscious of this fact, she started to build a strong air force as quickly as possible. The Chinese aggression of 1962 has further accelerated the development programme. The threats from our two enimical neighbours put great burden on our air defence potential. In the recent Indo-Pak conflict, Indian Air Force has proved their efficiency, won many laurels, and earned the confidence of the nation about their technical skill, ability to preserve the freedom of skies and repulse attacks on our
mother land.

Though young in comparison to other big nations of the world, Indian Air Force, at present, is a very efficient force in the world. Its role in war and in peace are both highly commendable. India's Defence Plan envisages the build up and efficient maintenance of a modern and balanced Air Force consisting of Fighters, Fighter Bombers, Bombers, Strategic and maritime reconnaissance aircrafts, transport aircrafts including helicopters, high powered static radars, tropo-spheric communication system, airborne electronic equipments, high quality ground facilities and above all disciplined, trained, efficient technical and non-technical personnel having courage and high morale.

Lastly, the Reserve and Auxiliary Air Force Act, 1952 provides for the establishment of three different categories of Air Force reserves — Regular Reserves, Air Defence Reserves and Auxiliary Air Force.
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