Senior Secondary Course

375 - MILITARY HISTORY

BOOK-1

375en

A Word with You

NIOS project for Indian Army (NEPIA) has been specifically designed for you to upgrade your educational qualifications while working as an army personnel in Indian Army. This programme aims at enabling you to develop in depth knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to make learning more effective. It also aims to make you more confident on your jobs and enhance your employability after your service in the army. Under the NEPIA project, three courses have been specially designed for you, i.e. Military History, Military Studies and Physical Education and Yog. Remaining two subjects you can choose from the bundals of subjects offered by NIOS.

Military History is one of the subject offered under NEPIA project. This course discusses about armed conflicts in the history of humanity and its impact on the societies. The essential topics of Military History are the cause of war, leadership, technology, strategies and tactics used and how these changed over the time.

This course has been divided in two parts and has 06 modules divided upto into 22 lessons. The first module is "Military History of Ancient India". This module talks about the warrior system of ancient India and militaries till Gupta empire. Second module is "Military History in Medieval India". It explores the military systems in India from Delhi sultanat to Mughal period.

Module three Military History of Colonial Era narrate the changes in the military system after the occurance of colonialism in India. Module four Armed Forces Today talks about the new establishment in Indian army after independence. The next module five is on Major Wars-Post Independence. It describes the various wars fought by India after Independence. The last module six. 'Insurgency and Terrorism' explores the challenges of terrorism and insurgency in India.

Please note that out of 22 Lessons, 06 Lessons have been kept for you to study and be assessed through Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA) only. These are **Military Ethos** (Lesson no 3), **Battles of Mughal Army** (Lesson no 7), **Rise and fall of the Mughal Army** (Lesson no 8), **Colonial Era and the Indian Sepoy** (Lesson no 9), **Battles Fought in the Colonial Era** (Lesson no 10) and **Indo-Pakistan war (1947-48)** (Lesson no 16). The public examination (PE) or final exam shall have the lessons other than those earmarked for TMA.

The Self Learning Material has been designed to keep you motivated in learning the content. Easy and simple language has been used to make learning friendly. Intext Questions and Terminal Exercises have been given in each lesson to assess your progress. The lessons are also equiped with Graphics and Maps to explain the concepts and information.

We fully believe, that you will like this SLM and will learn a lot from this. I wish for your bright future ahead. Any suggestions for improvements in the SLM are welcomed.

With Best Wishes!

Chairman
NIOS

How to use the Study Material

Congratulation! You have accepted the challenge to be a self-learner. NIOS is with you at every step and has developed in the material with the help of a team of experts, keeping you in mind. A format supporting independent learning has been followed. If you follow the instructions given, then you will be able to get the best out of this material. The relevant icons used in the material will guide you. These icons have been explained below for your convenience.

Title: will give a clear indication of the contents within. Do read it.

Introduction: This will introduce you to the lesson linking it to the previous one.

Objectives: These are statements that explain what you are expected to learn from the lesson. The objectives will also help you to check what you have learnt after you have gone through the lesson. Do read them.

Notes: Each page carries empty space in the side margins, for you to write important points or make notes.

Intext Questions: Very short answer self check questions are asked after every section, the answers to which are given at the end of the lesson. These will help you to check your progress. Do solve them. Successful completion will allow you to decide whether to proceed further or go back and learn again.

What You Have Learnt: This is the summary of the main points of the lesson. It will help in recapitulation and revision. You are welcome to add your own points to it also.

Terminal Exercises: These are long and short questions that provide an opportunity to practice for a clear understanding of the whole topic.

Do You Know: This box provides additional information. The text in boxes is important and must be given attention. It is not meant for evaluation, but only to improve your general knowledge.

Answers : These will help you to know how correctly you have answered the questions.

Activities: Certain activities have been suggested for better understanding of the concept.

www **Web site:** These websites provide extended learning. Necessary information has been included in the content and you may refer to these for more information.

Military History Course
Overview of the Learning Material

Module	Lesson No.	Name of the Lesson	Mode of Assignment TMA/PE	
Module 1 : Military History of Ancient India	1	Warrior System in Ancient India		PE
	2	Armies in Ancient Age		PE
	3	*Military Ethos*	TMA	
	4	Maurya and Gupta Armies		PE
Module 2 : Military History of Medieval India	5	Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate		PE
	6	Military System of the Mughals		PE
	7	*Battles of Mughal Army*	TMA	
	8	*Rise and Fall of the Mughal Empire*	TMA	
Module 3 : Military History of the Colonial Era	9	*Colonial Era and the Indian Sepoy*	TMA	
	10	*Battles Fought in the Colonial Era*	TMA	
	11	Revolt of 1857 and Reforms in the Indian Army		PE
	12	Indian Army in World War I & II		PE
Module 4 : Armed Forces Today	13.	Indian Army		PE
	14.	Indian Navy		PE
	15	The Indian Air Force		PE
Module 5 : Major Wars Post Independence	16.	*Indo-Pakistan War (1947-48)*	TMA	
	17	Sino-Indian War - 1962		PE
	18.	India-Pakistan War - 1965		PE
	19.	India - Pakistan War - 1971		PE
	20	Kargil Conflict 1999		PE
Module 6 : Insurgency and Terrorism	21	Insurgency		PE
	22	Terrorism		PE

Total Lesson : **22**
Lesson for Public Examination (PE) : **16**
Lesson for Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA) : **6**

Note : Content and images adapted from web-based resources in this SLM is being used for educational purposes only and not for commercial purposes.

Contents

375en01

1

WARRIOR SYSTEM IN ANCIENT INDIA

Our ancient texts say that a nation can progress only when its people are protected. This means that every citizen must feel secure and protected. It is the security forces of a nation that provides this protection. An army is necessary not only to defend a nation against invaders but also to maintain a stable administration and discipline in the society.

The history of ancient India is largely a history of culture. Tribes forms societies and societies became civilizations with rich Cultural Heritage and a well organised system of governance. Pastoral society of the early vedic age got transformed into settled Agrarian society in the later vedic period. The 'King' or the leader of the tribe was called "Gopati" (lord of cattle) and later as "Bhupati" (lord of the land). Bows and arrows used for hunting became weapons of war. As societies changed so did the armies and the weapons they used.

Objectives

After studying this lesson you will be able to:

- explain the need for nations to have boundaries and fight wars;

- trace the formation of armies and the change they underwent with time; and

- explain the concept of a united India along with a detailed account of the warrior system and warrior code followed by our ancestors.

1.1 How Boundaries were formed

The life of people is conditioned by the geography of their habitat. Let us now understand how the idea of boundaries came about. For this, we need to know the early history of our oldest civilization. Indian history mentions Harappan civilization to be around 2600 B.C-1900 B.C, based on excavations and other evidences. The people of Harappa and Mohanjodaro settled around the 'Indus' river and did not have any boundaries around their land. But after its decline and disappearance, settlers from the West and North West started settling Tribes, being agriculturists, started cultivating land for crops and these lands were marked with boundaries called 'Janapadas'.

The family was the basic unit of the Rig Vedic society. The group consisting of families was called 'Clan' and one or more Clans were called 'Jana' or tribe. As the tribes became bigger with more population the requirement of land became larger and bigger boundaries were formed. This was the first boundary created and the tribes protected their land from animals and other tribes. Some tribes migrated to different parts of India and in this process came in contact with other tribes thus resulting in conflicts and wars.

1.2 Formation of Army

1.2.1 Why were Armies Created?

What happens when tribes migrate to other places and want to live with those already settled in those areas? It results in rivalry, conflicts and ultimately wars. The expanding and migrating tribes created larger boundaries of their land and needed separate men to protect their land, livestock and people. They formed armies from among physically strong and capable men to protect it. As tribes became bigger, they settled down and formed societies and created laws of marriage and property. They chose a leader who was named a 'Bhupati' and later called a King.

Societies faced threat from burglars and others who would steal cattle amongst other things. It was also a custom to seek the hand of a princess in marriage by proving one's strength or ability to be superior. If marriage was denied it resulted in fights. People generally fought with each other on three major issues; of capture of territory and wealth, in retaliation to cattle lifting and on refusal of marriage with the woman of another tribe.

Activity 1.1

You must have realized that mankind evolved with time and adjusted, changed and formed rules as per their needs. Trace the extent of the Harappan and Mohanjodaro civilization on a map. Also identify villages along major rivers in Punjab and Haryana and compare that with the villages in the deserts of Rajasthan. This will help you to realize the importance of water as a source of life and why in later years wars were fought to conquer such territory.

We have seen how tribes formed societies and created boundaries. The tribes migrated and became larger leading to fights over cattle, territory etc. They had to create armies to protect them. Let us now see how they selected soldiers and invented weapons to fight.

1.2.2 The Society

The early vedic society did not have any caste system. Occupation was not based on birth but based on skills and natural flair for a particular activity. However, chiefs,

priests and warriors existed. In early vedic period, the 'sena' or army was not a permanent fighting group but consisted of able bodied tribesmen who were mobilized at the time of conflict with others. Migration and pressures of population made them change from a peace loving agri-society to being warlike.

As societies settled into larger groups they formed laws of marriage, property, etc. A settled society also witnessed a transformation of how people were assigned specific work within the society, as per their capability. To ensure social harmony the people of a Clan were divided into communities based on the work they were doing. For e.g. a farmer, carpenter, trader became Vaisyas, while a priest became a brahmin.

Similarly, a man selected to be a warrior became a Kshatriya. This was called the "Varna System" of society. As laws became stricter and population grew, there was a need to have one central authority to enforce discipline. Thus was framed 'Dandaniti''- laws for the society. The enforcer was the Dandadara or the King who was assisted by the army.

1.2.3 How Armies were Formed

We saw the need for stricter laws as society became larger. It was logical that with Stringent laws there was a need for enforcement of the law. As you have seen, in the Varna system the Kshatriyas became the rulers and warriors. Our ancestors understood the value and importance of the army. Wars were fought for many reasons which were psychological in nature such as showing heroism, seeking glory on, being martyred etc. History is full of examples of war between the strong and the weak. Therefore, the expansion of societies created conditions for fighting between tribes which in turn required the need for creation of a separate caste to be soldiers. This dual condition necessitated the thought process that even during peace time, an army had to be maintained. Thus we came across the term called 'standing army'. This standing army consisted of the 'Kshatriya' or the warrior community and fighting and dying for the King became their "swadharma".

The warriors soon emerged as a special class within the society which looked upon this community as the protectors and saviours of their land. The people did not mind the high position in society for the warrior class.

Intext Questions **1.1**

1. What is a Clan?
2. Name any three reasons why wars were fought.
3. Name the three castes in the Varna System.

1.3 A United India

You have learnt how small groups of families formed societies' The tribal chief or a King always desired to expand his power and have large empires. This desire of

Note

conquest was also for personal glory and was also encouraged by the people. The advantages of a large empire under a King were as follows:-

- It created a sense of unity and brought people of different clans, with different customs and traditions together under a King.

- A large empire also meant larger armies. Therefore, for an outside invader it was always a difficult task to go for a battle.

- A large empire under one King unified the people and ensured all round development of the society, both economically as well as culturally.

Our scriptures talk of the Aswamedha Yagna and Rajasuya Yagna, wherein the emperor's horse was let loose to roam freely. Anyone who stopped the horse was duty bound to wage a war against the emperor. If it was allowed to roam freely all that land then the people were required to obey the laws, rules set by the emperor. This was also a method to expand one's Kingdom. More importantly it was an idea of obtaining glory and distinction. The performance of the sacrifice, Asvamedha and Rajasuya, established supremacy of the ruler over a territory.

1.3.1 Weapons of War

Have you wondered what types of weapons were used by our ancestors? Dhanurveda and Nitiprakaska are ancient scriptures which describe in detail, the types and classification of weapons of war. Weapons were classified as per their use- those ones that are thrown (bow and arrow), those ones that are not thrown (sword) and those, which are used by mantra. Essentially, the sword, bow and arrow and the spear were the main weapons.

Our ancient scriptures describe in vivid details the making of a bow and arrow as well as the methods to use it correctly. The term Astra means a missile, which is thrown at the enemy. There were other weapons such as gada (long handle and a spherical head), parasu (battle axe) etc. Agneya Astra means a missile, which carries fire. The arrow of an Agneya Astra also called an Agni Bana consisted of a heated head or an arrow with fire on its tip. Such an arrow was more potent than a normal arrow.

Shukraniti (book on warfare by Shukracharya, an ancient guru) describes weapons of fire. Ancient Indians knew how to make an explosive and firearms were used extensively in battle. Ancient texts reveal that while gunpowder was known as 'Agnicurna', the guns were called 'Nalastra'. The 'Shukraniti' describes how gun powder can be prepared using saltpetre, sulphur and charcoal in different ratios for the use of different types of guns. Such a gunpowder was used to project missiles and rockets at the enemy.

1.3.2 Laws of War

Indian military science recognizes two kinds of warfare - the dharmayuddha and the Kutayuddha. Dharmayuddha is war carried on the principles of dharma, meaning here the Ksatradharma or the law of Kings and Warriors. In other words, it was a just and

righteous war, which had the approval of society. On the other hand, Kutayuddha was unrighteous war. It was a crafty fight carried on secretly. The Hindu science of warfare values both niti and shaurya i.e. ethical principles and valor. It was therefore realized that the waging war without any cause was not acceptable to the society.

A monarch desirous of dharma vijaya should conform to the code of ethics enjoined upon warriors. The principles regulating the two kinds of warfare are elaborately described in the Dharmasutras and Dharmasastras, the epics (Ramayana and Mahabharata), the Arthasastra (treatise of Kautilya), Kamandaka, and Sukra. Of particular interest was the rule that no army will destroy crops or houses of civilians. In fact the farmer and the general public were not affected by war and their lives were not disturbed. This ethos of the ancient army is practised by the Indian Army even today.

1.3.3 The Warrior Code

The ancient lawgivers, the reputed authors of "Dharmasutras" and "Dharmasastras" wrote the laws as per existing customs and usage for the betterment of mankind. The law books contain special sections on rules for the King and the warriors. A Kshatriya was required to perform three basic duties, learning, sacrificing and making gifts. The warrior was expected to learn all subjects that a King was taught. They also learnt the art of "Dhanurveda". Much importance was attached to discipline and obedience. Even now a soldier is disciplined and obedient as a habit and virtue. The warrior was recognized by the dress he wore. The attire of a warrior was same for a Clear and each part of the dress was codified. He was expected to wear appropriate dress including jewels as per the occasion.

The warrior code enjoined that a soldier must die in the battlefield. Thus among the laws of war, we find that,

● a warrior (Kshatriya) in armour must not fight with one who is not wearing armour.

● one should fight only one enemy and cease fighting if the opponent is disabled.

● aged men, women and children, the retreating, or one who held a straw in his lips as a sign of unconditional surrender should not be killed.

It is of particular interest to note that one of the laws enjoins the army to leave the fruit and flower gardens, temples and other places of public worship unharmed. The Ramayana describes how Ravana exhausted his arrows when fighting with Rama and Rama telling him to return the next day for battle with more arrows to fight. This incident was the highest form of Dharma yuddha practised.

Module - I

Military History of Ancient India

Note

Intext Questions 1.2

1. Who was a Kshatriya?

2. Name any one law of war practiced by ancient Indians.

What You Have Learnt

- Ancient Indians had evolved the art of warfare as early as 3000 B.C in the Harappan age and refined it in the vedic age.

- As societies progressed, the art of fighting also changed and newer weapons were made for war.

- Indian military science has been well documented in the form of ancient scriptures of Rig Veda, Atharva Veda, Dharmasutras and Dharmasastras.

- The need for a regular army was felt as early as the Vedic age and the warriors were treated as separate class in society. They were respected and cared for since they were the protectors of the land.

- Ancient Indians also knew the art of making firearms. The making of gun powder and other fire arms has been written in various texts such as Sukraniti.

Terminal Exercises

1. Describe how boundaries were formed.

2. Give an account of the concept of `One India' as practiced in ancient times.

3. Name any four warrior codes practiced by ancient armies of India.

4. Do you think the Warrior Code that was practiced in ancient India is relevant today?

5. What is the difference between an `Agni Ban` and a `Fire Arm'?

Answers to Intext Questions

1.1 1. The family was the basic unit of a society and more than one family was called a Clan.

2. Wars were fought basically to protect one's land from invaders. Other reasons why wars were fought include, protection of cattle and women.

3. (i) Brahmin (ii) Vaisyas (iii) Kshatriya

1.2 1. Caste of the solider or warrior was called Kshatriya.

2. One should fight only one enemy and cease fighting if the opponent is disabled.

2

ARMIES IN ANCIENT AGE

In the previous lesson you have learnt that ancient Indians had evolved a modern society and had advanced thoughts about the need for army and the weapons of war. The Janapada concept was expanded to Mahajanapada, which essentially meant that the King conquered neighbouring land to enlarge his Kingdom. With it came the idea of Bharatavarsh. Regular armies were created and rules of war including warrior codes were written. The warrior was respected and given a high place in society.

In this lesson we will learn how armies were organized to fight. Large armies required controlling organization and rank structure to maintain efficiency of the fighting force.

Objectives

After studying this lesson you will be able to:

* describe the organization of armies into various groups such as Chariots, Elephants, Cavalry, Infantry and etc;

* differentiate between a 'Regular Army' and a 'Mercenary force';

* differentiate between the words Strategy and Tactics and

* describe in brief the aspects of Naval Warfare, as our ancients knew it.

2.1 Organisation of the Army

* Our ancestors used two terms - "Regular Army" and "Proper Army". What is the difference between these two words? The word Regular means a permanent army composed of soldiers who are dedicated and devoted to the task of protecting the nation and its people. A Proper army means an efficient fighting machine. An army, which is well trained and always ready for battle, can be called a Proper army.

* All armies of the world are required to fight in all types of terrain and are accordingly equipped. India has vast and diverse terrain features ranging from mountains, deserts, plains and forests. The army had to be mobile to cover great distances and therefore chariots and cavalry formed the core strength along with

infantry. The ancient armies were made of the Chariots, Elephants, Horses and Infantry. Collectively it was called Chaturangabala.

- The four fold Chaturangabala was the traditional force. A King had a number of chariots, horses and elephants. All these required a minister or department of state to look after and also required money to feed the animals, pay the soldiers and provide accomodation for the soldiers and their handlers. Therefore, to control and administer large armies new organisations were created such as a ministry called Mantra, the force of counsel and Kosha, the power of the treasury. Thus it became a six fold force. As societies progressed the organization of the army was further strengthened, due to its deployment in different situations of war. It became an eight fold force to include, cara or spies, commissariat and transport, navy or Admiralty and Desika or elders and advisors.

- **Chariots** : In Vedic times, the chariot was considered the most important to fight a war. It could maneuver through the fighting forces thus suddenly occupying positions of advantage, break through ranks and threaten enemy from the flank or the rear. Each chariot had a charioteer and the warrior. A flag decorated it with an image called dhvaja and an umbrella. The use of the chariots declined by 650A.D and no mention of its use is made in any historical texts in later years.

- **Elephants :** The next important force of war was the elephant. In peacetime it was used as a vehicle to carry men and material. In war it became a combatant. Mention of elephants in battle is found in Rig Veda. The Arthasastra describes in great detail the role and tasks of a special officer to take care of the elephant division. It also mentions the area required to house one elephant in designated areas called elephant forest and its food and training requirements. The importance of elephants as a powerful means for battle can be seen from Gajasiksa or hastisastra, was a special science of elephants and formed an important part of military studies.

- **Cavalry :** The third division of the army, was the cavalry. Again, in Arthasastra, detailed descriptions are given of cavalry division. There was a Superintendent called as vadyaksa who was responsible to maintain the horses. A cavalry unit was the fastest moving force of an army and it could be employed to gain surprise and it played an important role in battles.

- **Infantry :** Infantry was the next important division of the army. Infantry gave the army its numbers, which became the factor for many victories. The Arthasastra talks of the Infantry as a separate department of the army, under the charge of a special officer of the state. All infantry soldiers carried a sword or a dagger and

Note

a shield. In addition they were equipped with a bow and arrow and some with firearms or javelins (long spears).

- **Commissariat :** The chaturanga or the four-fold division of the army was initial organisation of the army which was later improved to an eight fold division which included the Commissariat and the Admiralty. The Commissariat can be traced to the Mahabharata armies. It was basically an organization responsible to provide logistic support. That is to say, armies marched to the battlefront and the support in the form of extra weapons, rations and camping stores followed the marching army. This also included medical support and repair items for broken chariots etc.

- **The Admiralty :** The use of ships and boats were known to the vedic people but the idea of creating a separate department to coordinate and control the war ships was done by Chanakya. We find reference of ships in the Rig Veda, Dharmasastra and the Puranas. Tamils and people of the East coast of India, used ships as early as the vedic period, extensively for trade and conquest of neighbouring lands. There were three classifications of war ships. The first was ships with compartments to carry soldiers, the second carried the King, treasures, animals, etc., and the third was a ship used for long distance sailing and sea-fights.

Intext Questions   2.1

1. Name any three divisions of the Army.

2. What is a Regular Army?

2.2 A Regular Army and Mercenary Force

What do you understand by a Regular Army? The foremost characteristic of a regular army is the soldiers who form the basic unit. We can define a good army by:-

- **The Regular Army :** It comprises of the troops who volunteers to fight for the state. They are recruited from the different state. The modern day Indian army has soldiers from Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and all other states.

- **Mercenary Force** : A mercenary force is a temporary recruitment done for a specific purpose. Once the task is carried out the mercenary force is disbanded. The soldiers fight only for the money and therefore less motivated. As compared to Regular Army they are not well trained, motivated and diciplined.

- How well a soldier is trained? Soldiers who are well trained always perform well. It gives them added confidence in doing their task. A well-trained regular army enjoyed the confidence of the King because of their loyalty, their skills with weapons and their motivation.

- How well an army is organized and how well it is disciplined.

In the *Varna* system followed by ancient Indians, a Kshatriya was considered as the best warrior. There was however no restriction on hiring soldiers from any of the other castes. According to Kautilya, a body of troops who are of the same region and caste become a great asset. Sukraniti describes the characteristics of a good army.. Thiruvalluvar, the author of *Thirukkural*, says that homogeneity, tradition and valour were the most important characteristics of a good army. The Tanjore inscriptions are testimonial to the recording of 31 regiments of regular units in the Chola army. It is interesting to note that some regiments were assigned duties such as guarding the temple or being temple musicians. Even today the army has units which perform other national building tools tasks like afforestation, building roads & bridges etc.

Armies are organized as per the weapons they carry and their role in the battle. In the ancient age, one chariot, one elephant, three horses and three infantry soldiers formed the basic unit and was called Patti. This was the smallest unit of the army. Such a unit was complimentary to each other. For example, the three infantry soldiers protected the elephants and the three horses could scout ahead as sentries to look out for enemy. This smallest unit was then grouped with similar units to form larger forces. The largest such unit formation was called Aksauhini and was considered to represent the complete army. Large armies had hundreds of chariots, elephants and foot soldiers. A well-organized army became a cohesive fighting unit and thus constituted a good army.

2.3 Strategy and Tactics in War

It is not enough to only have a good regular army, which is well trained and well equipped with weapons. All good armies should have good tactics and strategy.

The word Tactics means the use of fixed drills in an intelligent manner so as to destroy the enemy in battle.

Strategy on the other hand is about deployment of all resources of a King, in peace and war to be victorious at all times. It is about ways and means to win a war.

Planning for war involves making good strategy while actual fighting in battle is done by sound tactics. What were the tactics and strategy followed by the ancient Indian armies?

Any war is preceded by a number of actions to be taken by the King and the army. The actions required to be undertaken by armies have been very well documented from ancient times. Let us see these one by one.

(a) **Marching -** Armies have to march from one place to another. Before a battle takes place, they have to march to the war front and camp. The strategic considerations for a march will require detailed planning for the route to be taken, protection of the route against invaders, weather and climate, how far the army is required to march etc. Accordingly the route will be reconnoitered

including locations of camps en-route. The terrain or geography of the area will also be studied to see good battlegrounds, local agriculture and other resources for feeding the troops. While marching, armies follow a battle order or tactical order of march-single line i.e one soldier behind another, was a marching order followed when going through forests. Similarly, different marching orders were followed depending upon the terrain. Drills were rehearsed for areas such as crossing a river or mountain where enemy can surprise the marching army by attacking from flanks. The various marching orders have been well described in Agnipurana. Agnipurana is a sanskrit text and is one of the Puranas.

(b) **Camping -** The next strategic point for consideration was the camping site to rest the soldiers after a long march. The camp site should be big enough to house the entire army and must have dry and level ground for all animals, chariots etc. to enter and exit the campsite. It must offer protection from all sides. Campsite must be near a water source such as pond or river. The camp also served as a place for resting the troops, treating the wounded and replenishing the units.

(c) **Selection of Battlefield -** Strategy in selection of battleground was based on the ease of movements of chariots, cavalry and elephants. The ground should not be marshy or have clay soil because the wheels of the chariots could get stuck. The ground must be big open land with soft mud to enable the army to use the tactics of encirclement and flanking maneuvers. There was also a consideration of space available for formations such as half-moon, arrow etc.
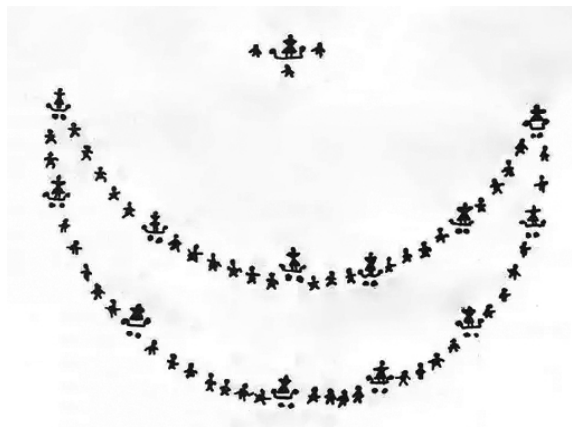
Fig. 2.1 Half-moon Formation

`Tactics'` concerns the method of use of the army units in actual battle. The formation that you see above (in Fig.2.1) expects the enemy to attack in the centre and the formation will then surround the attacking enemy from all sides. The method to be adopted to break this formation and defeat the enemy is called tactics of attack. An army in attack mode adopts speed, flanking manoeuvre, etc., to defeat the enemy. An army in defence adopts various formations such as the one shown above and is called tactics in defence.

Module - I

**Military History
of Ancient India**

Note

2.4 Naval Warfare

The creation of Admiralty by Kautilya during the period of Magadh Empire is evidence enough of the existence of Naval force. Ships and boats along with their design characteristics have been well written. Ships have been used for commercial purposes during the vedic period and also by empires of South India. The ancient Tamils used ships for expeditions and conquests especially in South East Asia. The Kings of Southern India undertook expeditions to establish their supremacy in Lanka as well as Indonesia, Malaysia and Myanmar. The Cholas, Pandyas, Pallavas, Cheras and the Chalukyas maintained strong fleet of naval war ships.

Intext Questions 2.2

1. How will you describe the word `Strategy'?

2. Name any three aspects of strategy for a marching army in ancient age.

Activity 2.1

Look up the internet and write down the tactical formations adopted by the Indian army, while marching for battle.

What You Have Learnt

- The units of the army had to be deployed tactically and the King and his ministers had to plan a strategy to win wars.

- The difference between strategy and tactics has been clearly shown.

- The knowledge of the ancients in aeronautics and naval warfare is praiseworthy.

- The ancient scriptures had beautifully written description of how to make an aircraft and how to use it in war and peace. Similarly, exact details are available on shipbuilding. Ancient Indians had mastered the art of naval warfare.

Terminal Exercises

1. What is Admiralty and why was it needed?

2. Explain Chaturangabala.

3. Name any three characteristics of a Good Army.

4. Name any three considerations in selecting a camping site.

Answers to Intext Questions

2.1 1. Chariot, Cavalry and Elephants

2. The Regular Army comprises on the troops who volunteers to fight for the state.

2.2 1. Strategy means to plan and prepare using all resources of the Kingdom, in peace and war, so as to be victorious always.

2. Route to be taken, Protection of the route, Weather and Climate.

375en03

3

MILITARY ETHOS

You have learnt the manner in which ancient Indians organized their armies from a small unit called the Patti to large armies, which had hundreds of chariots, elephants, cavalry and foot soldiers. Large armies also required a Commissariat to look after their logistic needs of food, clothing etc; and since ancient Indians had known and held war ships, they even thought about an Admiralty. Such an army was required to be disciplined and loyal to the King at all times. Regular armies trained and practised the art of fighting. You also learnt about the difference between strategy and tactics.

In this lesson we shall learn about the ethos, which essentially means the customs and traditions followed by ancient armies. Ethos means, the way a soldier or the unit behaves in war as well as in public life. For e.g. a soldier is disciplined, he is honest, armies are loyal to the country and the King. You will learn about the important traditions of the army such as carrying the Flag or Dhwaj, use of martial music and the courage and valour displayed by soldiers in the battlefield. Present day armies, the world over, follow some of these customs even today.

Objectives

After studying this lesson you will be able to:

● explain the importance of a flag or Dhwaj as a symbol of importance;

● explain the importance of martial music for the soldiers in wars and

● illustrate the bravery of the Indian soldier.

3.1 Flag or Dhwaj

A flag had come to be recognized as an important symbol and was carried by kings in battle. The flag, also called the "Standard", became a recognition of a King and in turn, also became a recognition of the army. From the days of the Rig Veda, the one symbol that commanded respect and loyalty of the people was the flag. Even today the Indian flag is the most respected symbol for all Indians everywhere. Poets have glorified the flag as more valuable than the King. It was an object of national honour and pride.

Flag bearers carried the Flag to the battlefield. It was considered the greatest honour to defend it. For the armies fighting a battle, it was important to capture the flag of the opponent because that would symbolize victory. It must be remembered that in ancient times there was flag of the king and also each division of the army had its own flag and it was carried on the chariot or the elephants.

Apart from the flag, Kings used emblems. These were depictions of animals such as boar, lion etc, South Indian Kings used pictures of fish, tiger, bow in their flags.

THREE ANCIENT TAMIL EMPIRES
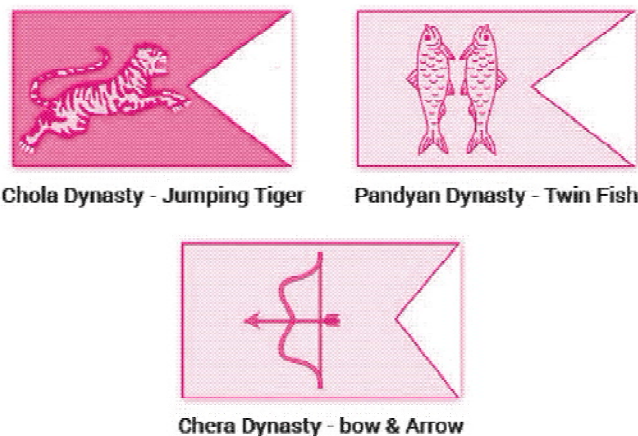
Chola Dynasty - Jumping Tiger   Pandyan Dynasty - Twin Fish

Chera Dynasty - bow & Arrow

Fig. 3.1 Flag

The same picture as that on a flag was also used as an emblem on the official seal or coin. A pennant was a triangle shaped flag, which was used on chariots, cavalry and even elephants. Pennants were coloured cloth and were used to differentiate between two armies in the battlefield.

3.2   War Music

Musical instruments for war find mention in Rig Veda Samhita, implying that they were of importance in warfare. These instruments were used only for festive occasions or in war. Vedic literature mentions war drums of three types. Instruments were designed for religious festivals, cultural and art demonstrations and some exclusively for use in the battlefield. Why were they required for the soldiers? Drums and music provided inspiration to the soldiers to be brave and fight ferociously.

Horn

Fig. 3.2 War Drum horn or Nagara

An instrument such as Dundubhi was used to wake up troops at dawn, signify the end of a day's fighting at dusk or commence fighting at the designated hour. Like the Dundubhi, conch or shank was also used extensively in battle. The use of conch shells slowly faded with time and was replaced by other instrument such as a trumpet.

All armies of the world, even today have military bands, trumpets and bugles as part of their armed forces. Indian army infantry units maintain a band platoon, which is used to play martial music to motivate troops and also to train them in marching. In war the soldiers of the band platoon act as paramedics and help wounded soldiers to be evacuated to hospitals.

3.3 Bravery and Valour

The people of India look up to the Indian soldier as the saviour of country frontiers. A good soldier demonstrates qualities of courage, self-sacrifice, integrity, strength of character and commitment to the cause of the Nation. It is therefore, the duty of the Nation to recognise and honour the sacrifice of a soldier. The valour in the soldier is a trait that goes back to ancient times.

Bravery of soldiers has often been described in poems, which form an authentic source of historical evidence. Mothers were described to be proud of their sons joining the army even after the death of their husbands in war. This was considered as the final contribution to the Kingdom.

It is said that Valour, Honour, Pride and Clarity of mind were the four fold traits of a good soldier.

Intext Questions 3.1

1. Who carried the flag to the battlefield?
2. Name any three animals used as a symbol in the flag or emblem.
3. Name any three war music instruments.

What You Have Learnt

- A well-organized army requires certain customs and traditions to be followed so that they fight with motivation and valour.

- Each aspect of the customs and traditions had a particular meaning and became an essential aspect of the battlefield.

- The flag or Dhwaj, war music and musical instruments became a part of the army and an important symbol of war.

- The Kingdoms were recognized by the flags, emblems they created whether as a flag or coin or artefacts.

- The valour of the Indian soldier was second to none. Soldiers' mothers and wives were equally brave and examples of the pride of knowing the death of their sons in the battlefield has been eulogized in a number of poems.

Terminal Exercises

1. What is the difference between a `Pennant' and a `Flag'?

2. What was the purpose of playing the `Dundhubi' or `War drums' in the battlefield?

3. What are the important qualities of a `good soldier'?

Answers to Intext Questions

3.1

1. Flag bearers.

2. Fish, Tiger and Lion, bow

3. War drum or Nagara, Conch and Dundubhi.

4

MAURYA AND GUPTA ARMIES

You have learnt how our ancients formed societies and developed into a great civilization. Their expansion, both geographically as well as by population caused a requirement of armed people to protect their land and people. They formed armies and built modern organisations around it for greater efficiency. The armies thus evolved were made to follow strict code of conduct and ethics in battlefield as well as in peacetime. In turn the soldier became a very respected person in society and was given extra care and privileges. The important aspect of ancient military history was that no caste system was followed in recruiting soldiers. It was capability of a soldier to fight that gave him place in the army. Armies were recognized by their flags and it became the most respected object for the entire country or Kingdom. This was the beginning of nationalism.

If you have studied Indian history at some point in your life, you would have surely known the mighty Mauryas and Gupta dynasties. Their kings were very powerful, and were able administrators who managed their huge empires. Let us find out how they were able to do to and what support they had from their armies.

Objectives

After studying this lesson you will be able to:

- describe the Mauryan empire and its army and

- explain the organization of Gupta's army

4.1 Mauryan Empire

As societies progressed, they formed larger groups and explored newer areas to prosper in agriculture, mining iron, copper, coal etc. Janapadas became Mahajanapadas. The Mahajanapadas were big settlements in Magadh, Kosala, Kasi, Saurasena (Mathura) and became centres of crafts and industry. Another major change in society was the advent of Jainism and Budhism as centres of influence among the people. The earliest ruler of Magadh was Bimbisara in 544 B.C and thereafter the rule and expansion

of the Magadh continued in small measures in the Nanda dynasty. Subsequently, in 321 B.C, the Mauryan dynasty was established under Chandragupta Maurya.

🌸 **Activity** ■ **4.1**

Do some research on the internet or books on Ancient Indian History and collect pictures that show the extent of the Mauryan empire under Ashoka the Great. Paste the pictures in your notebook.

From the military point of view, it is important to know why Magadh became the centre of the Mauryan Empire from where they conquered most of India. The reasons were as follows:-

- The geography of the nearby areas had surrounding mountains (five hills surrounded the capital) gave it a natural protection.

- Secondly, the land was very fertile, being the Gangetic plains, giving it agricultural richness.

- Thirdly, forest in the southern areas gave it timber and elephants.

- Fourthly, Chandragupta inherited a vast army from the Nandas.

Mauryan empire was the turning point of Indian history. Kautilya or Chanakya as he was known, wrote the famous treatise of Arthasastra. He gave the world a practical way of governance including, art of diplomacy, war strategy, law and commerce.

The Mauryas maintained a large standing army. It was adequate for all its needs of controlling very large empire. The chariots, cavalry, elephants and infantry were the main composition of the force. There were six varieties of chariots according to their role in battle. They are as follow:

- Three types were used in the battlefield for actual fighting;

- One type was used only for training;

- One for marching towards the enemy;

- Two types for general duties in the war zone.

The chariots were two wheeled, four wheeled and eight wheeled. The Arthasastra mentions the organization for chariots, elephants and cavalry. It was considered important to have superintendents, animal trainers and well-organized areas to keep the animals. The infantry carried bows and arrows. The bow was made of the same height as that of the soldier who carried it. For its usage, he rested it on the ground and pressed with the left foot to fire the arrow. Some soldiers carried javelins and all of them, irrespective of what they carried, always had one sword with them.

There were six types of troops in the Mauryan imperial army: the Kshatriya, or troops of the hereditary warrior class who formed the majority of the army; mercenaries and
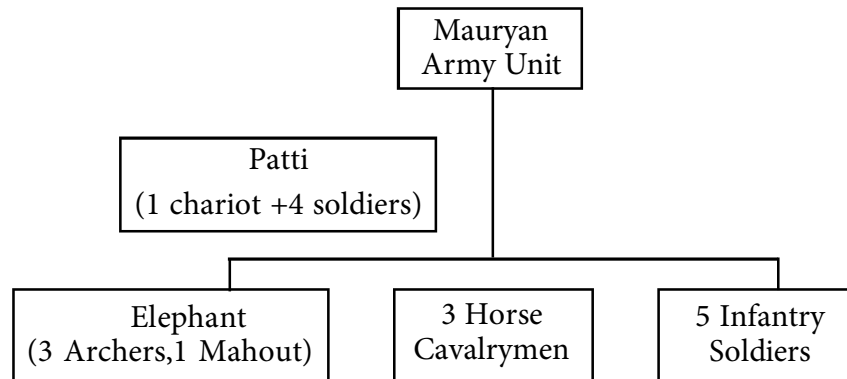
freebooters hired as individuals seeking military adventure; troops provided by local zamindars and business men; troops supplied by allies; deserters from the enemy; and tribesmen from the wild forests and hills.

The tactical organization of the Mauryan army of this period had a basic unit called the patti, a mixed group, comprising one elephant carrying three archers or spearman and a mahout (the elephant trainer and handler) three horse cavalrymen armed with javelins, round buckler and spear, and five infantry soldiers armed with shield and broadsword or bow. This is depicted diagramaticlly for you.

```
                  ┌─────────────────┐
                  │   Mauryan       │
                  │   Army Unit     │
                  └────────┬────────┘
        ┌──────────────────┤
┌───────┴──────────┐       │
│      Patti       │       │
│(1 chariot +4     │       │
│  soldiers)       │       │
└──────────────────┘       │
        ┌──────────────────┼──────────────────┐
┌───────┴────────┐ ┌───────┴───────┐ ┌────────┴───────┐
│   Elephant     │ │   3 Horse     │ │  5 Infantry    │
│(3 Archers,1    │ │  Cavalrymen   │ │   Soldiers     │
│   Mahout)      │ │               │ │                │
└────────────────┘ └───────────────┘ └────────────────┘
```

In today's military terms it would be called an all arms team. This twelve-man unit when assembled in three units formed a senamukha, or "company." Three of these formed together comprised a gulma, or "battalion." Units were added in multiples of three, forming an aksauhini, or "army," comprising of 21,870 patti. The phrase 'combat arms' denotes cavalry/chariot/elephants combined with the infantry soldier either together or as a combination of two or more.

Intext Questions 4.1

1.   Who was the founder of the Mauryan Empire?

2.   How many types of chariots were maintained in the Mauryan army?

3.   What is the name of the basic army unit?

4.1.1 The Kalinga War

Ashoka is considered as one of the greatest Kings in Indian history who ruled from 269 B.C to 232 B.C. He is praised not so much for his militaristic activities as for his policy of Dhamma. Dhamma was a code of conduct or ideal social behavior common to all religions of the world. It was a uniform civil code for the people of the empire.

The Kalinga War was fought between the Mauryan Empire under Ashoka and the state of Kalinga. Kalinga was a feudal republic located on the coast of the present-day Indian state of Odisha and northern parts of Andhra Pradesh. The Kalinga war, the only major war Ashoka fought after his accession to the throne, is one of the major and bloodiest battles in ancient world history. The main reasons for invading Kalinga

were both political and economic. Kalinga was then said to be a glorious and prosperous region consisting of freedom-loving and artistically skilled people.

People from the Kalinga Kingdom, also known as the "Utkala" were the first from Bharat (present day India) who traveled offshore to the South East for trade. For that reason, Kalinga had some important ports and powerful navy. They used to follow open culture and uniform civil code. This war resulted in the death of 200,000 soldiers on both the armies and was a turning point in the life of Ashoka. It is said that Daya river, flowing next to the battlefield had red coloured water due to the bloodshed in the battlefield. Ashoka gave up violence on seeing so much loss of life and established peace and harmony in his Kingdom and guided the people to lead a prosperous life. War always results in death and destruction and Ashoka realized this.

4.1.2 Arthasastra

The period of Mauryas is also known for the birth of Jainism and Budhism as well as for the 'Arthasastra'. The word Arthasastra means the science of acquiring wealth and protection of the earth. 'Artha' also stood for material well being such as wealth, on which the prosperity of humans depended. Kautilya, also known by the name Chanakya, is said to have written the treatise on Arthasastra during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya. The treatise covers all subjects required by the King to rule over his Kingdom. It starts with how a King should conduct himself, subjects he should learn and the daily routine he has to follow to be a good ruler. The book covers the subjects of law, commerce, budget and accounts, foreign affairs and defence. For an efficient government and implementation of policies, Chanakya also mentions in detail, the administrative organization required.

Of specific interest to the study of military history is the section on Defence and War. As per Kautilya, the King had three responsibilities which were -

- Protection of the people from external aggression.

- Enlargement of territory by conquest and.

- Welfare of the people. Wars according to him were of four kinds : Mantrayuddha or war by counsel or diplomatic war. `Prakasayuddha' or open warfare i.e, a set piece battle.

- `Kutayuddha' is concealed war or secret war/psychological war.

- `Gudayuddha' or Clandestine war. Clandestine war meant war by covert operations using agents, double agents etc.

Do you Know?

Kautilya given the final authority to the king in all matters of administration. Among the seven components of the state the king is given the primary position. The Saptangas (seven limbs) of the state are:

King (Swami), Danda (Arny), Janapada (Territory), Amatya (minister), Mitra (Friend), Durga (Fort), Kosa (Treasure)

Shatru (Enemy)—- The 8th element added by Arthasastra.

Kautilya metions that the king must undergo military training.

Kautilya also refers to Chaturangbala (Cavalry, Infantry, Chariot and Elephants) as the main components of Army. Each one of them was placed under a commander. He also mentions about medical service to the Army, the recruitment policy, war plans, fortification etc.

4.2 Gupta Empire

The Gupta empire ruled between A.D 300 to A.D 550. Between the Mauryan dynasty and the Gupta period, the large empire was broken into smaller Kingdoms under Kanishka, Satvahanas and the Kalinga rulers. The basic organization of the army and its employment in battle remained similar over the years. The military of the Gupta Empire remained based on the traditional four part armies or Chaturangabala. They, unlike other armies, included a mounted cavalry by this time. They modeled the dress and armor of their cavalry after the well-crafted and equipped soldiers of the Kushan empire.

The Guptas preferred armored cavalry forces that attacked with lances or swords. The weapons used such as bow and arrow were made of metal instead of bamboo or wood as in earlier times. The Guptas seem to have relied heavily on infantry archers, and the bow was the dominant weapon of their army. The version of the longbow was composed of metal, or more typically bamboo, and fired a long bamboo cane arrow with a metal head. The longbow was reputedly a powerful weapon capable of great range and penetration and provided an effective counter to invading horse archers.

Iron shafts were used against armored elephants. Fire arrows were not part of the bowmen's arsenal contrary to popular belief.

The era of the Gupta Empire in India was all about conquering. The rulers wanted to expand their reach across India. They did this by attacking the Kingdoms around them to gain land. Samudragupta, son of Chandragupta, was a King out for conquest. He desired to unite all of India under his rule and quickly set out to accomplish this dream by starting wars across much of the Indian region. During the reign of Chandragupta II, Gupta Empire maintained a large army consisting of 500,000 infantry, 50,000 cavalry, 20,000 charioteers and 10,000 elephants along with a powerful navy with more than 1200 ships. Chandragupta II controlled the whole of the Indian subcontinent; the Gupta Empire was the most powerful empire in the world during his reign. The reason for conquest and building a large empire was to protect the Kingdom from disintegrating into smaller ones thus dissipating power. The decline of Mauryan and Gupta period led to such a disintegration and weakening of the forces thus the invaders such as the Sultanates were able to overcome the later Kings and establish their control over India.

Intext Questions 4.2

1. When did Ashoka the Great rule?

2. What prompted Ashoka to renounce violence?

3. What subjects are written in the book Arthasastra? Name any three.

What You Have Learnt

● The Mauryan and later Gupta dynasties unified India into one large Kingdom, thus protecting its integrity from external aggression.

● The established empires ruled over entire India except the southern peninsular India. Both dynasties maintained large standing armies including naval ships.

● They had evolved a very detailed process of governance, art of warfare and organizational excellence as written in the Arthasastra.

● The basic army unit (Patti) was refined into an efficient fighting machine.

● The Kalinga war resulted in very large deaths of soldiers that caused considerable hurt in the mind of Ashoka the Great. He later renounced violence and practised peace and harmony, which led his people to lead a prosperous life.

● Science of war and weapons saw changes in the form of better metallurgy in designing the weapons.

Terminal Exercises

1. What factors contributed to the Mauryan empire becoming the largest empire in India?

2. What was the composition of the smallest army unit Patti in the Mauryaan Army?

3. How many soldiers died in the Kalinga War?

4. What material was used in making weapons during the Gupta period?

Answers to Intext Questions

4.1
1. King Bimbisara.
2. Six.
3. Patti.

4.2
1. 269 to 232 B.C
2. Large scale destribution and loss of life during the Kalinga was prompted Ashoka to renounce violence.
3. Defense and War, Law, Diplomacy.

Note

375en05

5

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DELHI SULTANATE

The Medieval period dates roughly between 6th A.D and 16th A.D. During this period many dynasties ruled India. The period was marked by several battles which some developments of new weapons and new military strategies. The focus of this lesson will be on the onset of the rule of Delhi Sultanates in 1206 A.D. up until the last of the Mughal rule under Bahadur Shah Zafar and his overthrow in 1857 by the Britishers, which subsequently paved the way for the establishment of Colonial rule in India. The battles were many as were the methods adopted in each of them. The overall objective was to defeat the enemy and win the war.

You will learn that the number of soldiers in battles did not matter; rather it was the strategy and bravery that mattered when it came to victory. Hence the innovations and methods adopted by different rulers during period contributed to an experienced military in different regions of India. In this lesson, you will first learn the developments in military starting with the onset of foreign invasions and then study the major battles that led to consolidation of Muslim rule. You will also learn the major battle field techniques employed and the reasons for their failure.

Objectives

After studying this lesson you will be able to:

- explain the factors responsible for foreign invasion of India and its impact;

- describe the developments in Military system and

- identify the reasons for the weaknesses of Delhi Sultanates.

Note

5.1 Foreign invasions in Medieval India

Do you know when the first foreign invasion into India took place? It was during 5th century BC that the Persian King Darius invaded the North Western part of India, which was then divided into small regional states. The division of India into many principal states and lack of unity among them provided the opportunity for King Darius to invade and annex them. Thereafter invasions from abroad continued. All invaders who came to India aimed at conquering and acquiring wealth.

Each such invasion not only brought destruction but new developments in various fields such as the introduction of new language, different religious beliefs and practices, development of art and culture and most importantly new military organizations, new weapons and tactics as well.

Important of these many foreign invasions is the one by Sultan Shahab -ud -din - Mohammed Ghori. The main reason for his expansion was to gain foot-hold in India and also acquire its huge wealth. His invasion led to setting up of Muslim rule in India for the very first time.

Do you know?

Mohammed Ghori was ruler of a small region called Ghor in today's central Afghanistan. He was originally from Turkey and he desired to expand his empire by turning to neighboring countries including India.

The invasion took place through Khyber Pass, the route that connected Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan and the present day Peshawar in Pakistan. Geographically speaking, the Himalaya mountain ranges act as the natural frontier of India in the North, Northwest and the Eastern part, whereas the oceans cover the Southern part of India. However, at Khyber Pass the mountain ranges are low and hence provided a viable route for foreign invasions to happen. Even so, capturing India and establishing his rule was not an easy task for Ghori since he had to fight twice with the Indian local rulers - in 1191 A.D for the first time, followed by the second invasion the very next year in 1192 A.D. On both occasions he faced the Rajput king Prithviraj Chauhan who was then the ruler of Ajmer and Delhi. These battles are remembered as Battles of Tarain.

Do you know?

The Rajputs were a warrior class and in Sanskrit they were called "son of a king". They dominated much of northern India and were divided into different clans. Loyalty was to the individual clan rather than the king.

Impact of the invasion

The impact of the invasion not only paved the way for the establishment of Muslim rule but also that the Khyber Pass became the frequent route through which subsequent invasions from abroad became possible. As we will see later, Babur's invasion also came through this route, which led to the establishment of Mughal rule.

Intext Questions 5.1

1. Why did foreign invasions take place?

2. What was the reason for Mohammed Ghori to invade India?

3. Where is Khyber pass?

4. Who were the Rajputs?

5. What was the impact of Ghori's invasion?

5.1.1 The Battles at Tarain and consolidation of Muslim rule

As you have learnt above, it was the battles at Tarain that was remarkable as it provided the initial entry of Muslim rule in India. But soon after that they got involved in dealing with regular threats from Mongol invasions, putting down frequent internal rebellions that arose both within the dynasty as well as from the Rajput chiefs. They also tried to expand territory by conquest of neighboring territories. It is important to note that each of the Delhi Sultanate rulers dealt with these problems in different ways. During the reign of Khilji and Tughlaq dynasty, for example, the empire expanded West and South. The invasion from the Mongols was also effectively stopped by erecting strong defenses.

The first battle of Tarain was fought between Mohammed Ghori and the Indian Rajput King Prithviraj Chauhan in 1191 A.D. at Tarrain near the present day Thaneshwar city in Haryana. Prithviraj Chauhan won the battle. However, it was after defeating the Rajput King at the second battle of Tarrain in 1192 A.D that Mohammed Ghori was able to gain foot-hold in Northern India and thereby establish the Muslim rule. After crossing the Khyber Pass, Ghori reached North Western part of India, the present day Punjab, and attacked and captured the fortress of Bathinda which was the outpost of the Rajput kingdom.

This made Prithviraj counter-attack and recapture Bathinda by fiercely attacking Ghori's forces from both sides called 'the flanks'. The attack was a success for Prithviraj as Ghori's forces could not withstand and hence retreated. Ghori narrowly escaped death and was saved by one of his loyal slave Qutub-ud-din Aibak, who later established the Slave Dynasty in Delhi.

The mistake Prithviraj made was that he did not pursue his enemy further but was satisfied with recapturing the Bathinda fort. Had Prithviraj killed Ghori in the battle then the military history would have been different. Probably, India would have seen a different medieval period without the Delhi Sultanates or even the Mughal rulers. The establishment of Muslim rule brought changes in military structure, military reforms, new weapon systems, strategies and battle field tactics.

In any case, what you should understand is that the success of Prithviraj during the first battle was not capitalised upon. Hence the very next year, Ghori returned with vengeance and attacked Prithviraj's forces in the second battle of Tarain.

Do you Know?

Prithvi Raj Chauhan was an exemplary ruler and military strategist. It is said he had the art of hitting target only on the basis of the sound. He extended his empire by defeating many kingdoms like Chandellas, Gahadavalas etc.. The Gahadavala ruler Jaychandra tried to curb the ambition of Prithvi Raj Chauhan. It is said that Prithvi Raj Chauhan abducted the daughter of Jaychandra, Sanyogita, when he was not invited for the 'Swayamvar' by the latter. This incident has been immortalized by Chand Barrdai in his epic Prithvi Raj Raso.

His major military achievement was the success in the first battle of Terrain in 1191. He forced the army of Muhammad Ghori to retreat. It is said that he did not attack the retreating army to protect the Rajput honour and tradition. Next year, in 1192, Muhammad Ghori again attacked and this time Prithvi Raj Chauhan was defeated. Many of the rulers had turned against him and did not help him in the second battle of Terrain. The defeat of Prithvi Raj Chauhan paved the way for the establishment of the Turkish rule in India which continued for about 300 years.

	When	Where	Between Whom
First Battle of Tarrain	1191 A.D	Tarain, Haryana	Mohammed Ghori and Prithviraj Chauhan Prithviraj Chauhan won.
Second Battle of Tarrain	1192 A.D	Tarain, Haryana	Mohammed Ghori and Prithviraj Chauhan Mohammed Ghori won.

What positive aspects could be noted from the rule of Delhi Sultanates?

- There were changes in military structure
- Military reforms were undertaken
- New weapon system scame into being

The second battle at Tarain was significant because during this battle Ghori won the numerically strong Rajput forces. This was possible because Ghori's forces were swift in the use of Cavalry as against that of the Rajputs which were slow, although they were large in numbers. Ghori's forces were well organized with good line of command and control. The horses were fitted with horse shoes that provided high speed and life. Also, new battlefield tactics were used by Ghori by way of tactically retreating his forces which made the Rajputs move towards the centre and thereafter encircling them with their flanks and attacking fiercely. Besides, Ghori's forces were always on the offensive and hence had the option of choosing the place to strike. These techniques led to the victory of Mohammed Ghori who later captured Delhi and Ajmer and established his rule.

Besides the superior battlefield techniques employed by the Turkish forces, the successful penetration and establishment of Muslim rule in India can be attributed to the following:-

• India, at that time, lacked a unified central authority. It was divided among many small Kingdoms such as the Pratiharas and Chauhans in the North, Rashtrakutas in the Deccan or Central India and the Palas in East India.

• Small kingdoms meant less power and weak forces. It was easy for Mohammad Ghori to defeat smaller kings.

• There was frequent infighting within the Rajput clans for supremacy.

From then on, the Muslim dynasty called the Slave dynasty was founded with Qutub-ud-din-Aibak as its first independent ruler in 1206 A.D. He ruled for four years and established Muslim rule by putting down revolts from the surrounding Rajput kings. Because of his bravery and generosity he was called 'Lakh Baksh'. Consolidation of Muslim rule took place during the reign of Iltutmish who ruled from 1210 to 1236 A.D. Further territorial expansion took place during the rule of Alauddin Khilji when Gujarat, Rajasthan, Malwa, Ujjain and neighboring territories were captured. Attempt was also made to expand to the South.

Map 5.1 India (AD 800-1200)

Intext Questions 5.2

1. Who founded the Muslim rule in India?

2. Why was Qutub-ud-din-Aibak called Lakh Baksh?

3. Why did Prithviraj Chauhan lose the second battle of Tarain?

4. What tactics were employed by the Turks that made them victorious?

5.2   Military contributions

During the rule of Delhi Sultanate the military saw new developments. In fact, as and when power shifted to new Kings there were changes in the way the military was organized. Generally, it was the king or the Sultan who was the supreme commander of the armed forces. A new war ministry was created to administer the military

department and was under the control of a Minister called the 'diwan-i-arz'. He was responsible for recruitment of soldiers, training and maintenance of discipline in the army. Branches of the army consisted of infantry, cavalry and elephants. Loyalty of these branches was ensured through keeping them under the command of experienced and trusted people. The cavalry branch was considered paramount as it had great mobility and proved effective as well.

During the rule of Ghiyas-ud-din Balban of the Slave dynasty a strong central army was maintained to

(i)   put down internal uprisings. The military was reorganized into commands. Each command was responsible

(ii)   for maintaining law and order and provide support to the Sultan during rebellions. Borders were fortified to ensure strong rule and an efficient intelligence or spy system was put in place.

During the days of Khilji dynasty (Map 5.2) under Alauddin Khilji (1296-1316) a large standing permanent army was established for further expansion of the empire as well as to protect his empire from Mongol invasion. The Mongols were using gunpowder and hence it spread to India as well. However, the use of firearms and canons by the Delhi Sultanates was of limited nature and varying degrees during military operations. You will see that it was only during the Mughal rule that the effective use of these weapons was made.
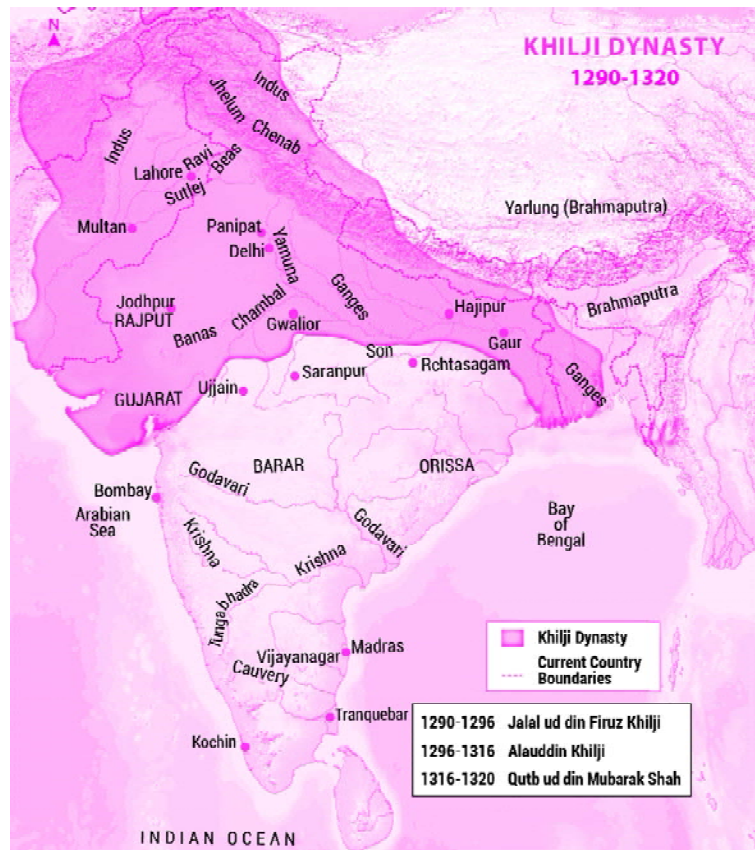
Map 5.2. Khilji dynasty

Intext Questions   5.3

1. What was the name of the Minister under whom the new war ministry was created?

2. How did reorganization of the military take place?

5.3   Weakening of Delhi Sultanates

Weakening of Sultanate Empire took place for several reasons. It started from the Tughlaq dynasty itself. It is important to note that unsuccessful campaigns contributed to the weakening of the empire. For example, the invasion of Timur by the successors of Tughlaq led to desolation and to several regions demanding autonomy from the authority of Delhi. Gujarat, Malwa, Punjab and Rajasthan, which were once annexed and controlled by the Sultans, no longer remained so and they started agitating for more power and autonomous status.

The second reason was frequent internal power struggle leading to revolts from within the Sultanate which threatened internal stability. Many times succession of rulers was not peaceful. Deceit and treachery were common among the royal family where brothers and descendents attempted to capture power by killing and using other treacherous means. In fact, this was a common phenomenon in every dynasty.

The third reason was the problem of maintaining large standing army. Salary and payment issues affected the continuation of large army in due course of time. It placed a financial burden on the state leading to either levying more taxes on the people or collecting taxes from neighboring chieftains who refused to pay at times. So they had to conquer neighboring territories for wealth, which in turn drained their own wealth.

The fourth reason was the failure to control the free-floating mercenaries, who were hired for money. These mercenaries sold their services to whoever paid more money. The availability of such mercenaries led to more rebellions as the smaller kings used these soldiers to rebel against the Sultan.

And finally, internal rebellions contributed to further weakening of the empire. For example at the time of last of the Delhi Sultanate rule under Ibrahim Lodhi (1517 - 1526) rebellions by his own brother Jalal Khan and others elsewhere led to dissatisfaction inviting foreign conquest by Babur who defeated Lodhi at the first battle of Panipat in 1526 and establishing the Mughal rule in India.

Intext Questions   5.4

1. Who are the mercenaries?

2. Explain any three reasons for the weakening of Delhi Sultanate rule.

Note

What You Have Learnt

- Medieval India was divided among many princely states.

- Rulers lacked unity which invited many foreign invasions.

- The first such invasion was by Mohammed Ghori in 1191-1192 A.D.

- The victory of Mohammed Ghori in the second battle of Tarain, led to establishment of Delhi Sultanates.

- The Rajputs were known for their valour and possessed numerically superior military strength.

- Despite the numerical superiority of the Rajputs the foreign invaders were able to win the battle through efficient military strategy and battlefield tactics and established Muslim rule in India.

- Subsequently, the military underwent organizational changes with the establishment of military commands and a permanent standing army.

- With the arrival of gun powder, new weapon systems such as artillery were introduced.

- The Delhi Sultanates could not sustain their rule due to several reasons primarily internal fighting for capturing the throne.

- Finally, the era of Delhi Sultanates ended with another foreign invasion this time under the Mughal ruler Babur.

Terminal Exercises

1. Give an account of the military tactics employed by Mohammed Ghori at the second battle of Panipat.

2. What were the military reforms undertaken by the Delhi Sultanates?

3. Highlight the military contributions of Balban.

4. Mention any four reasons for the weakening of Delhi Sultanate rule.

Answers to Intext Questions

5.1

1. Unity among the states was lacking and hence it prompted invasions from abroad aimed at conquering and acquiring wealth from India.

2. To gain foot-hold in India and also acquire its huge wealth.

3. Khyber Pass is the route that connects Kabul in Afghanistan and Peshawar in Pakistan.

4.   The Rajputs were a warrior class and in Sanskrit term they were called "son of a king".

5.   It paved the way for the establishment of Muslim rule in India and also that the Khyber Pass became the frequent route through which subsequent invasions from abroad became possible.

5.2

1.   Qutub-ud-din-Aibak in 1206 A.D.

2.   He was called Lakh Baksh because of his bravery and generosity.

3.   Mohammed Ghori's forces were always on the offensive and employed new battle field tactics which Prithviraj Chauhan did not have.

4.   Retreating and drawing the enemy forces to the centre and then encircling them with the help of flanks.

5.3

1.   The new war ministry was under the control of a Minister called the 'diwan-i-arz'.

2.   The military was reorganized into commands, each of which was responsible for maintaining law and order.

5.4

1.   The mercenaries were hired for money and hence they sold their services to whoever paid more money.

2.   Frequent internal power struggle; maintenance of large standing army and use of mercenaries who sold their services to whoever paid more money and hence not a dependenable force

Note

6

MILITARY SYSTEM OF THE MUGHALS

As you have learnt in the previous lesson the Muslim rulers of Delhi who called themselves the 'Sultans' acknowledged the authority of the 'Caliph'. However, when the Mughal rulers came to power, they repudiated the authority of Caliph and called themselves as 'Padshah'.

Another remarkable development during this period was that the European Trading Companies started establishing themselves in India. The Portuguese followed by the Dutch, the Danish, the English and the French-all came to India but they were not able to make much headway up to the time of Aurangzeb. However, as you will see later the throne became virtually vacant after the death of Aurangzeb. For all these factors it is said that with the arrival of Mughals, a new age started in the history of India.

Objectives

After studying this lesson you will be able to:

- describe the dynamics of Mughal Empire in India and
- explain the Mughal military structure

6.1 Overview of Mughal Empire

Mughals from Central Asia ruled India for more than three hundred years - from 1526 up until 1857 - when the last Mughal ruler was overthrown and British established their control. During these three hundred years of Mughal period the military underwent many changes. We can learn all this from the recorded history of the battles that they had fought. Who established the Mughal empire? How did they come to India? And who were the prominent rulers? Here are the answers to these questions.

The Mughal Empire in India was founded by Babur. He established himself in Kabul and then invaded India from Afghanistan through the Khyber Pass.

It was in a battle at Panipat, which is now located in Haryana that Babur defeated the numerically superior forces of the last of Delhi Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. With the defeat of the last Delhi sultan ruler, Babur fought with the Rajputs under Rana Sanga of Mewar, and by 1529 he dismantled the Afghans of Gangetic Plains. On his death in 1530, he left behind a new Empire which encompassed all of northern India from the Indus River on the West to Bihar on the East, and from the Himalayas in the North to Gwalior in South.
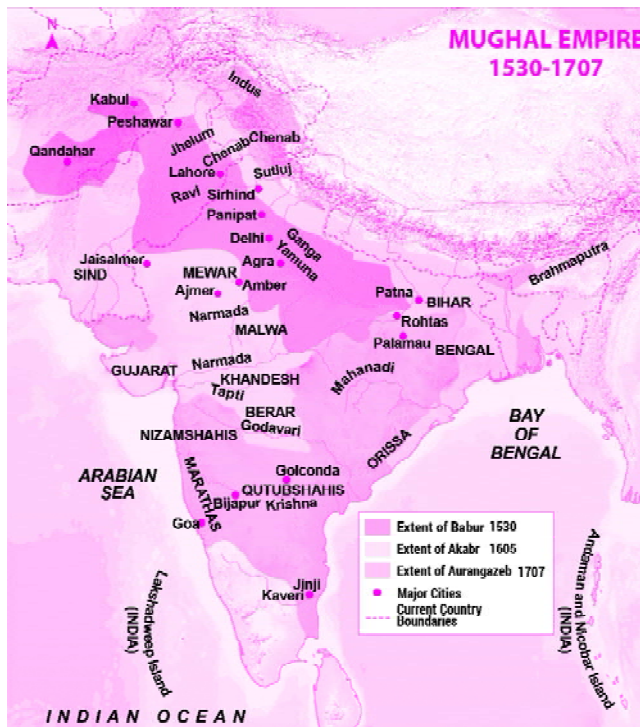
Map 6.1 Mughal Empire

After Babur's rule his son, Humayun took over power and assumed the throne in 1530, but in a short period of 10 years he was driven out of India into Persia by the Afghan rebels. However, Humayun made a triumphant return from Persia to India again in 1555.

The other prominent ruler that the Mughal dynasty saw was Humayun's son Akbar, who established the throne under the administration of Bairam Khan in 1556. It was during Akbar's rule, `Mughal influence' through out the country reached its political height. Akbar left behind an internally stable state with reliable political, administratiave and military structures.

Akbar's son Jahangir inherited both his father's administrative system and his tolerant policy toward subjects but he neglected the affairs of the state and came under the influence of rival courtiers. His rule did not continue for long and it passed on to his son Shah Jahan who took over power in 1628. However, his rule also saw financial

Note

problems. The country witnessed maintenance of the court costing more than the revenue. Later in 1658, as a result of Shah Jahan's illness his eldest son, the liberal Dara Shikoh assumed the role of administrator. But, Shah Jahan's younger son, Aurangzeb took over power as the sixth Mughal emperor by executing Dara Shikoh. Although Aurangzeb succeeded in expanding the empire to its greatest extent, his political and religious intolerance proved fatal to the stability of Mughal society.

The last emperor, "Kaiser-i-Hind" Bahadur Shah II was exiled by the British, after his involvement with the Great Uprising of 1857.

Intext Questions **6.1**

1. Who were the Mughal kings after Babur ? Name any three kings.

2. When was the first battle of Panipat fought?

3. What was the reason for weakening of Aurangzeb's empire?

6.2 The Mughal Military Structure

As the Mughals came from Central Asia they brought the Central Asian military tradition along with them. A new style of combat was adopted due to the arrival of gunpowder and with that a new kind of tactics was also employed. Earlier, this was not the case since fighting predominantly revolved round the use of horses and elephants with weapons like bows, arrows, swords and shields. But from now on a new phase of military combat was adopted that focussed on the use of artillery and the use of muskets, bombs, etc. This does not mean that the older weapons were completely replaced. In fact, they were complemented with new ones particularly the artillery.

This contributed to the change in battlefield tactics about the deployment of the units in the battle, the positions of the infantry, cavalry and artillery in battlefield and how they had to be employed. And not only were there changes in the adoption of military tactics but also corresponding changes in the manner in which these different military units were to be maintained. New organisations were created with civilian administrative institutions.

As far as the structure is concerned, the Mughal Army consisted of cavalry, infantry, and artillery. Among these, artillery held a subordinate position compared to that of the infantry and cavalry. Besides, elephants were also used. Under the Mughals, the emphasis on the numbers and quality of the horse in an army. However, it was the artillery that was used extensively to break through the enemy forces and defeat them. Even during the first battle of Panipat, the artillery played an important role in defeating Ibrahim Lodhi's forces.

a) **Artillery:** The general name given to this branch was Top-khanah. Babur's artillery was of two kinds, the heavy and the light, or "as they call the latter, the artillery of the stirrup. The heavy artillery was called the 'Kazan' or heavy canon

which was able to fire balls of about 20-25 pounds in weight while the lighter canon was called 'zarb-zan' which was mobile and could be moved in different places and was able to fire 3 to 4 pound weight of projectile. The Kazan were big guns and were used against forts and fortified positions. Since these canons were heavy it was difficult for the army to move or maneuver them effectively during battles. In such cases, it was the lighter canons the Zarb-Zan which was effective as it was quite mobile.

Besides, there was also a third kind called 'firingi' or Frankish canon, which was much smaller than the zarbzan. The last kind of Babur's artillery consisted of a heavy siege gun which fired projectiles of about 100 pounds or more.

b) **Elephants:** Long before the Mughal Empire fell into decay, elephants had become principally beasts of burden or means of display, and their role in the battle reduced significant. Yet, Akbar made much use of elephants by bringing them into the field in great numbers. Under Akbar the elephants ridden by the emperor were called khasah (special), and all others were arranged in groups of ten, twenty or thirty, called halqah. The Elephants were aggregated as groups and formed a single division.

c) Discipline in the military was extremely lax, if not entirely absent. Once thrown into confusion, it was impossible to restore a Mughal army's discipline. During the march they moved without order, with the irregularity of a herd of animals.

The Mughal military had an elaborate system of arrangement to take care of invasions. There was a person called Mir Tuzak (literally, Lords of Arrangement) whose responsibility was to identify the route, decide on the marches and proceed ahead, select a place for encampment and lay out the site of the various camps and the lines of shops. When carrying out these duties, the first Mir Tuzak was more commonly known as Mir Manzil, Lord of the Stages.

d) **Camps:** Each soldier had a tent as shelter. Outside the gate of the enclosure were the elephants and horses with their establishments on one side; and the records, the carts and litters, the general of artillery, and the hunting leopards on the other. The heavy artillery was ranged at a distance and defended the approaches.

e) **On the March:** The heavy artillery went first, followed by the units of the infantry called the advance guards. The baggage followed the combat unit. In the baggage first came the camels carrying the imperial treasure. Immediately behind these came the imperial kitchen. The army came after the baggage.

Module - II

Military History of Medieval India

Note

f) **Equipments:** During battles, the Mughals used a wide variety of weapons. The generic name for arms and armour was silah (plural aslah). Broadly, they can be classified into short arms and weapons for distant attacks.

6.2.1 Short arms ranged into five classes. They were:

1) swords and shields,

2) maces,

3) battle axes,

4) spears and,

5) daggers.

Besides the above, the Mughals also used weapons for more distant attacks. They were of three different types:

1) the bow (Kaman) and arrow (Tir),

2) the matchlock (banduq or tufang) and

3) the pistol (tamanchah).

Of these three, the Tir-Kaman was the most popular. In fact, it served as the primary weapon of the cavalry, and the Mughal horsemen were famed for their archery.

"The sword was better than the dagger, the spear better than the sword, the bow and arrow better than the spear."

The generic name of a sword was tegh (Arabic), shamsher (Persian) or talwar (Hindi). The Arabic word saif was also used occasionally. One kind of short-sword was called the nimchah-shamsher. Apart from these there were many other kinds of weapons that were used. They are as follows:

DHUP (asa-shamsher, i.e. staff-sword): a straight sword, adopted from the Dakhin. It had a broad blade, four feet long and a cross hilt. It was considered as an emblem of sovereignty and high dignity and was therefore displayed on state occasions.

SIROHI: "Whoever was struck on the head by these Indian blades was cleft to the waist, or if the cut were on the body, he was divided into two parts."

PATTA: a narrow-bladed, straight rapier.

GUPTI: a straight sword having a walking stick as its sheath.

Along with the sword naturally comes the shield; then known as chirwah & tilwah.

The mace (gurz) usually formed part of the equipments of a Mughal warrior. The battle-axe (tabar) was a triangular blade with one broad cutting edge. The usual generic name used for spears of all kinds was the Arabic word sinan. The head or point was called sunain, and the butt was the bunain. Besides these, there were also other varieties of daggers that were in use. To name some of them: Jamdhar, khanjar, katta and peshqabz.

Intext Questions 6.2

1. Name the different branches of Mughal military.

2. What were the different kinds of artillery used by Mughals called?

3. How did the Mughals organize themselves during invasions?

4. List some of the weapons used by the Mughals.

Note

What You Have Learnt

- The Mughals hailed from Central Asia;

- Their military traditions were superior to those of the Delhi Sultanates who were not administered properly;

- The Mughal army was well organized and reached its zenith during the rule of Akbar;

- Cavalry was the main arm as it provided greater mobility;

- The artillery was the supporting arms of the Mughals;

- The technological and tactical surprise that the artillery contributed was unparalleled;

- Various kinds of weapons were used and discipline was ensured

Terminal Exercises

1. Who were the prominent rulers under Mughal dynasty?

2. How was the Mughal military system organized?

3. Give an account of the weapons used by Mughals.

Answers to Intext Questions

6.1

1. Humayun, Akbar, Jahangir, Shahjahan and Anuragzeb etc. (Any Three)

2. April, 1526 A.D.

3. Policy of political and religious intolerance.

6.2

1.   Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery and Elephants.

2.   Heavy and light artillery.

3.   Heavy artillery first followed by the infantry called as the advance guards and then logistics units comprising of the camels bearing the imperial treasure. The treasure was succeeded by the hunting establishment, which was followed immediately by the imperial kitchen. The entire army came after the baggage.

4.   Swords, battle-axes, spears, daggers and maces.

7

BATTLES OF MUGHAL ARMY

375en07

In the previous lesson, you studied the factors that encouraged Babur to invade India, composition of the Mughal Army and their war equipment and weapons. You also learnt that the Mughal artillery was a new weapon of war and terrifying to the enemies. The gunpowder played a vital role in winning battles and in the establishment and expansion of the Mughal empire.

In this lesson, you will study the three important battles fought by Babur which laid a solid foundation of the Mughal rule in India. Panipat (a town in Haryana) has been described as the pivot of Indian history for 300 years. And its story begins in the first great battle that took place in 1526. The victory at Panipat, significant as it was, did not allow Babur the luxury to sit back and savour the moment for long. For there were other enemies such as that of Rana Sanga, the powerful ruler of Mewar to be subdued in land called Hindustan. After capturing Delhi, Babur lived for only four more years. His son Humayun and grandson Akbar continued the consolidation of Mughal power after his death.

Although Mughal influence reached its political peak during Akbar's time, the foundation was laid by Akbar's grandfather.

Objectives

After studing this lesson you will be able to:

* explain the first battle of Panipat and battle field tactics of the Mughals and

* discuss the power-struggle that existed during the early years of the Mughal Dynasty.

7.1 The First Battle of Panipat

The First Battle of Panipat took place in 1526 between the invading forces of Babur and the last of the Delhi Sultanate Empire under Ibrahim Lodi. It took place at Panipat (Haryana) and marked the beginning of the Mughal Empire. The significance of this battle was that this was one of the earliest battles involving the use of gunpowder as

Note

firearms and field artillery in India.
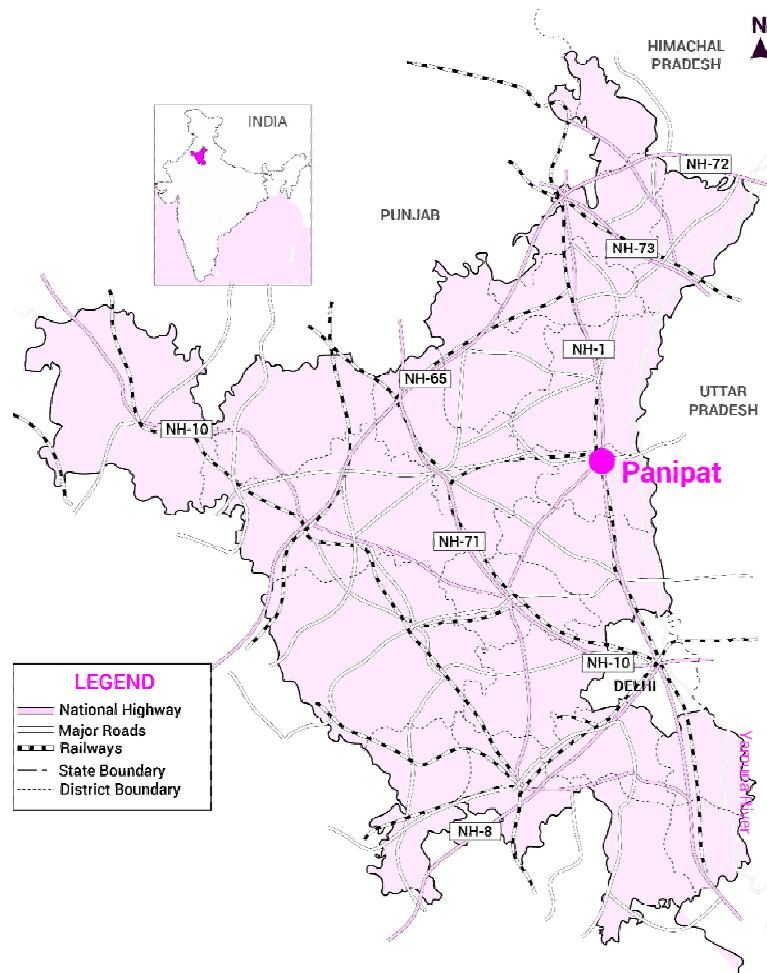
Map 7.1 - Battle of Panipet

7.1.1 Why was the Battle Fought?

Ibrahim Lodi the last king of Lodi dynasty attempted to extend the royal authority and asserted his absolute power over his citizens. He was a cruel king and the people hated him. This made the governor of the Punjab, Daulat Khan Lodi, invite the Mughal ruler Babur, to invade India. Babur accepted the offer and inflicted a crushing defeat on Ibrahim Lodhi in the first battle of Panipat in 1526. Ibrahim was killed where upon the loose aristocratic confederacy of the Lodis faded.

Intext Questions **7.1**

1. What is the significance of the Battle of Panipat?

2. Why did Daulat Khan Lodi invite Babur to invade India?

7.1.2 Military Tactics of the First Battle of Panipat

According to estimates, Babur had 15,000 men whereas Ibrahim Lodi's forces numbered 100,000. This means that Ibrahim forces were numerically superior to that of Babur's forces. Babur's army was a mixture of Turks, Mongols, Iranians and Afghans and consisted of cavalry and gunners with gunpowder matchlocks and cannons while Ibrahim Lodi's forces consisted predominantly of war Elephants and heavy Cavalry besides Infantry. Victory depended on the battlefield tactics.

What is a matchlock?

It is a device that is used for igniting gunpowder. It was during the 15th century A.D. that this mechanism was used. The Mughals brought this technology to India and used it in the first battle of Panipat.
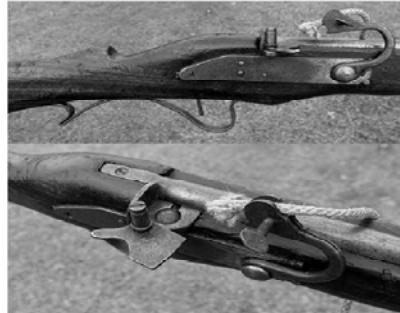
Fig. 7.1 Matchlock

Babur succeeded in winning the battle owing to new tactics introduced by him such as the Tulghuma and the Araba. Tulghuma is a tactic aimed at dividing the whole army into small units and placing them on the flanks. Araba meant carts that were placed in large numbers in rows facing the enemy and tied to each other with ropes.

Babur further divided the divisions on the flanks into Forward and Rear divisions. Babur knew that his army was less in number and hence the best way for him was to split his army into formations so as to encircle the enemy from all sides. Behind the carts cannons were placed, protected and supported by mantlets which could be used to easily maneuver the cannons.

These two tactics made Babur's artillery lethal. The cannons could be fired without any fear of being hit, as they were shielded by the bullock carts held in place by ropes. The heavy cannons could also change their direction for new targets, as they could be maneuvered by the mantlets which were on wheels.

Babur's tactics at Panipat showed the influence of a mix of two military traditions - The Ottoman and the Mongol-timurid traditions. The adoption of the cart-wagon line allowed them to create artificial defenses for their infantry.

On the other hand, Ibrahim Lodi's, army relied heavily on Elephants and Cavalry. Besides, he also had infantry which was not well developed. They were predominantly foot archers and Pashtun tribal foot soldiers. The battle field tactics of Ibrahim Lodhi consisted of five-fold division such as the vanguard and the units on, the right, the left, the centre and the rear. Ibrahim Lodhi tactic was to use his strike forces of Elephants and heavy Cavalry.

Babur's men used gunpowder effectively against Lodi's army, with the help of two experienced Ottoman gunners specially brought for the purpose. Then, taking Lodi by surprise, two wings of Babur's army attacked from the rear and side. It was a grim affair. Thousands died on both sides. In less than three hours, Ibrahim Lodi was killed and the Delhi Sultanate was history.

Aftermath : The victory of Babur's invading army in the First Battle of Panipat, led to the establishment of one of the great empires of medieval India - the Mughal dynasty. Even then Babur had to encounter several other opposition to his rule and the first one came in the form of the Rajput King Rana Sanga, the ruler of Mewar who fought Babur at Khanwa.

Intext Questions **7.2**

1. What is Tulghuma and Araba?

2. What was the outcome of the battle of Panipat?

7.2 Battles during the early years of the Mughal Dynasty

At the time when the Mughals captured Delhi, the Rajputs were still ruling some parts of North West India. By the beginning of 16th century, their strength reached its height under the rule of Rana Sanga (Rana Sangram Singh), who was the king of Mewar in Southern Rajasthan and who was also able to unite many other neighboring Rajput kings to fight against foreign rulers. However, Rana Sanga was defeated in a fierce battle by the Mughal invader Babur, and the splendour of a united Rajput polity waned rapidly. It is largely from that period of Rajasthan's history that the view of the Rajputs as valiant warriors is derived. It is important, therefore, to briefly highlight Rana Sanga. He fought three battles with Babur.

Rana Sanga of Mewar

Maharana Sangram Singh (12 April 1484 - 17 March 1527) known as Rana Sanga, was the Rajput ruler of Mewar, which is now located within the geographic boundaries of present-day Rajasthan. He ruled from 1509 and 1527.

Rana Sanga succeeded his father, Rana Raimal, as king of Mewar, in 1508, following a fierce power struggle with his brothers. Upon assuming the throne he set about consolidating his power. One of Sanga's first acts as the ruler was to attack **Malwa**, which was suffering from internal dissension between its Sultan Mahmud Khilji and its Rajput Wazir, Medini Rao.

Note
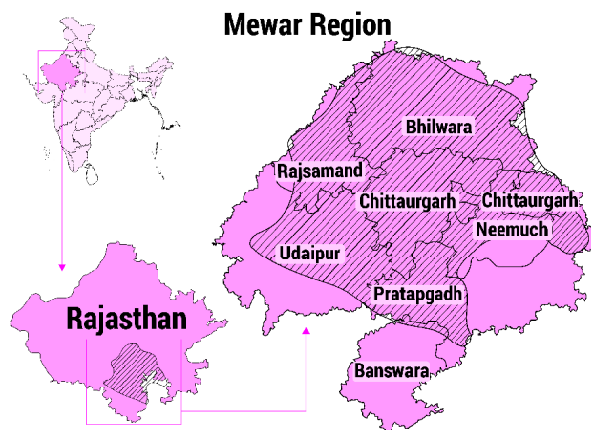
Map 7.2 Mewar Region

Rana Sanga emerged as a powerful ruler after conquering Malwa. He then turned his attention towards north-eastern Rajasthan, which was then under the control of Khilji's ally, Lodi. He invaded the region and was successful in capturing several major areas, including the fort of Ranthambore.

Lodi retaliated and invaded Mewar. Sanga's forces proved to be too strong for Lodi's Afghans. The Battle of **Khatoli** which Rana Sanga fought against Ibrahim Lodi was a big success for the Rajputs. In the battle, the Maharana lost an arm and became lame for life but this did not deter his spirit. Later, in another battle at **Dholpur** against Ibrahim Lodi, the Rana Sanga once again defeated Lodi and captured most of present day Rajasthan.

With his growing stature as a powerful ruler in India, he gained much recognition. Owing to his repeated success in the northern territories of India, he set his ambitions high and planned to capture Delhi and bring the whole of India under his control.

7.2.1 The Battle of Khanwa

Initially, Rana Sanga believed that Babur had plans to leave India. But intelligence gathered suggested that Babur was getting ready to consolidate his newly gained successes. Therefore, Rana Sanga, decided to wage war against the Mughal invader.

At first, he forced Afghan fugitive princes like Mehmud Lodi and Hasan Khan Mewati to join him. Then he ordered Babur to leave India.

As Rana's and Babur's troops faced each other in Khanwa, near Fatehpur-Sikri, in 1527, a bloody battle followed, resulting in death and destruction. Although, the Rajputs had surrounded Babur, but his technically superior army won the battle.

The reason for Babur's success was that even before the battle took place Babur had carefully inspected the battle site. Like in the Battle of Panipat, he strengthened his front by procuring carts which were fastened by iron chains. These were used for providing shelter to horses and for storing artillery. Gaps between the carts were used

Note

for horsemen to charge at the opponent at the right time. To lengthen the line, ropes built of raw hide were placed over wheeled wooden tripods. Behind the tripods, matchlock-men were placed who could fire and, if required, advance. The flanks were given protection by digging ditches.

In addition to the regular force, small contingents were kept on the left flank and in front for the tulghuma (flanking) tactic. Thus, a strong offensive-defensive formation had been prepared by Babur.

Rana Sanga, fighting in a traditional way, attacked the Mughal army's flanks. He was prevented from breaking through by reinforcements dispatched by Babur. The carts and matchlockmen were ordered to advance, pressing on the Rajputs and their allies. The battle which lasted for not more than 10 hours, was bitterly contested and became an exceedingly brutal affair. At a critical moment of battle, the defection of Silhadi and his contingent caused a split in the Rajput forces. Rana Sanga while trying to rebuild his front was wounded and fell unconscious from his horse. The Rajput army thought their leader was dead which resulted in disorder, thus allowing the Mughals to win the day. Despite putting up a gallant fight, Rana Sanga and his allies suffered defeat.

With his numerically huge army as compared to that of Babur, Sanga perceived that he would win the battle against Babur. However, Babur's tactics and the efficient use of artillery and cannons was no match for Rana Sanga. The Rajputs had no answer to the wheeling tactics of the Mughal cavalry. Babur's artillery had won the day for him; it had finally established the Mughal rule over India and eventually sealed the fate of the Rajput revival.

7.2.2 The Battle of Chanderi

Chanderi was under the Muslim rule for a long time before being captured by Rana Sanga during one of his wars with Ibrahim Lodi. It was later given to Medini Rai, who had served Sultan Mahmud Khilji as prime minister. Medini Rai was one of Rana Sanga's most distinguished lieutenants. He assisted Rana Sanga in many campaigns against the Sultans of India. He fought along with Rana Sanga in the battle of Khanwa against Babur. After the battle Medini Rai returned to Chanderi. But Babur decided to make Chanderi his next objective.

Chanderi was a walled town. The citadel was built on a hill above the town, with an outer-fort below the hill. The citadel's water supply was lower down the hill, and was protected by a double line of walls that ran from the citadel down to the outer fort. The town's location made Babur's artillery less effective than normal. Babur's chief of ordnance, was unable to find a position above the height of the walls, and so work began on building a mound for the mortar. The rest of the army was ordered to build ladders and mantlets. Babur's next move was to send Araish Khan to meet with Medini Rao with a peace offer - if Medini Rao would surrender Chanderi then he would be rewarded with Shamsabad. This offer was refused.

The strategic planning and clever use of men and weapons by Babur made it clear to the defenders of Chanderi that the end of the siege was close. At this point they performed the ritual of Jauhar, killing their women before making one final desperate attack on Babur's men. The fall of the town had happened so quickly that Babur himself could not take part in the battle.

After the Battle of Chanderi, no Rajput ruler ever challenged the authority of Babur.

Note

Intext Questions 7.3

1. Who were the opposing forces at the Battle of Khanwa?

2. What was the outcome of the Battle of Khanwa?

What You Have Learnt

● Babur laid the foundations of what was known as the Mughal empire, by crushing the Lodi Dynasty in the First Battle of Panipat.

● Mughal Empire faced administrative as well as several other security challenges such as the threat from Rajputs.

● Ibrahim Lodi as the Sultan of Delhi had made several failed attempts to subdue the Rajputs of Mewar.

● Babur who attempted to engulf the Rajputana. The Battle of Khanwa was one such successful attempt which breached the stronghold of the Rajputs.

● Subsequently, the fortified town of Chanderi witnessed the final bloodshed which broke the spine of the Rajputs and allowed Babur to finally proceed to establish his empire.

Terminal Exercises

1. What military tactics were employed by Babur in the first battle of Panipat?

2. What were the battlefield tactics employed by Babur in the Battle of Chanderi?

Answers to In Text Questions

7.1 1. It was one of the earliest battles involving the use of gunpowder firearms and field artillery in India.

2. Ibrahim Lodi's harsh rule built discontent among many and hence the governor of Punjab Daulat Khan invited Babur to invade India.

7.2 1. Tulghuma is a tactic aimed at dividing the whole army into small units and placing them on the flanks centre where as the Araba meant carts that were

Note

placed in large numbers in rows facing the enemy and tied to each other with ropes.

2. Establishment of Mughal dynasty

7.3 1. Babur and Rana Sangha of Mewar

2. Babur won the battle

8

375en08

RISE AND FALL OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE

In the previous lesson you learnt that Babur had laid the foundation of the Mughal Empire by capturing major portion of Northern India. He was a great military leader. Who employed innovative tactics and use of gun powder to build a formidable Army. Fighting in India required adaptation to the new environment which had mountains, forests, marshlands and built up area. Hence it demanded new tactics and diversification and combined arms approach. The Mughals easily adapted to this environment and were prepared to guard against their newly built empire in India.

Babur's successors Humanyun, Akbar, Shah Jahan, Aurangzeb made great efforts to not only consolidate their empire but also to expand its borders. They had exceptional military as well as administrative skills. In this lesson, let us find out more about the Mughal rule in India.

Objectives

After studing this lesson you will be able to:

- explain the Mansabdari System during Akbar's rule;
- explain the nature of war in Second Battle of Panipat;
- highlight the experiences of Akbar's army in battle of Haldighati and
- identify the causes of decline of the Mughals.

8.1 The Mansabdari System

Mansabdari was a system first introduced by Akbar for military administration with the objective of sustaining his army. It was a system originally borrowed from Central Asia but in the Indian context Akbar included Indian Muslims, Rajputs and Afghans as well. The system served as the basis for maintaining Mughal military and civil administration. In this system every man in the Mughal State who was employed above the position of a common soldier (or messenger) became a mansab.

Note

A Mansab belonged to both civil and military administration and could be transferred from one department to another. In other words it is a position, rank or status within the army.

The mansabdari system was not hereditary. The Mughal officers, whether Hindus or Muslims were granted territorial commands in return for their military service. Each of them had to bring some number of men at arms, horses or elephants to the army and were rated as per the numbers they brought with then.

Do you know?

Mansabdari System is a system of military administration first introduced by Akbar in 1571. He wanted to maintain his army by including Hindus and Muslims and giving them ranks or positions in the military depending upon how many armed men they could bring with them.

The highest mansab that could be held by a subject, not of the royal house, was that of commander of 7000 men. In the later years though, we find instances of promotion to 8000 or even 9000. The mansab of a prince ranged from 7000 up to 50000, and even higher. In the Ain-i-Akbari, sixty-six grades are stated, beginning at commanders of 10000, and ending at those set over 10 men.

In addition to the simple division by mansab alone, there was also a grouping of officers into three classes. They are as follows:

i.   from 20 to 400 were "officers with rank" (mansabdar);

ii.   from 500 to 2500 were Nobles (Amir, pl. Umara);

iii.   from 3000 to 7000 were Great Nobles (Amir-i-Azam)

All mansabdars were kept on either of two lists:

i.   Hazir-i-rikab, present at Court;

ii.   Tainat, on duty elsewhere.

Pay (tankhwah) might be either given in cash (naqd); or an assignment of the land revenue (jagir) of a certain number of villages or of a sub-division.

Fines were of various types, such as for

●   deficiency in horses (tafawat-i-asp);

●   deficiency in equipment (tafawat-i-silah);

●   deficiency of troopers (tafawat-i-tabinan) etc.

Other incidents of military service that affected pay and allowances were:

●   Absence without leave (ghair-haziri);

- Illness (bimari);
- Leave & furlough (rukhsat);
- Desertion (farari);
- Discharge or resignation (bartarfi);
- Pension;
- Death (fauti).

The Mughals also devised method of honouring with distinctions. They were:

- Titles;
- Robes of Honour;
- Gifts of Money or other articles;
- Kettledrums;
- Standards & Ensigns.

8.2 Second Battle of Panipat

The Second Battle of Panipat marked the beginning of Akbar's rule and also his territorial expansion. It was fought in 1556, between the army of Hem Chandra Vikramaditya (Hemu) and the forces of Akbar. This was during the early phase of dominance of Mughals in India where, their rule was restricted to parts of Punjab, Delhi and Afghan. It was the victory at the second battle that further consolidation and expansion of Mughal empire took place. Akbar's opponent was Hemu who had large forces as compared to Akbar.

a) Hemu was the Prime Minister of Adil Shah Suri of the Suri Dynasty. He was also known as Hemachandra Vikramaditya. A month before the second battle of Panipat took place, Hemu attacked Delhi and won over Akbar's forces in the Battle of Delhi 1556. He then crowned himself as Samrat Hemachandra Vikramaditya. However, the following month in November 1556 Akbar counter attacked Hemu at Panipat and took over the rule of Delhi.

b) Thirty years after Babur had defeated Ibrahim Lodi, the Mughal army assembled once again at Panipat under the leadership of Akbar. Ali Quli Khan Shaibani was sent by Akbar with a strong cavalry unit to destroy the train of Hemu's artillery which was weakly guarded. This proved to be a major handicap for Hemu. Although Hemu had lost his artillery to the Mughals even before the actual battle started, his forces were still numerically superior to those of Mughals. Hemu's army was composed of 30,000 strong cavalry and a mighty contingent of 500 elephants. Hemu led his army from the front, atop an elephant named Hawai. The Mughal military formation was on the traditional lines with left and right flanks and vanguard assisting the centre. There were at least 10,000 horses

in the cavalry of Mughals. Akbar and Bairam Khan stayed in the rear of their forces, 8 miles from the battleground. Panipat witnessed another fierce battle which echoes the maxim that 'numerical superiority no guarantee to attain victory in wars', rather it is battlefield tactics that matters.

Aftermath

In the battle Hemu was wounded by a stray arrow and captured. Later, Akbar's regent, Bairam Khan beheaded Hemu. After the Second Battle of Panipat, the victors occupied Delhi and Agra and the sovereignty of Akbar over Delhi was confirmed.

Do you know?

The word Sovereignty is derived from the Latin word 'superanus' which means supreme. It therefore means supreme power or authority to govern.

Intext Questions   8.1

1.   How were the Mansabs honoured?

2.   When was the second battle of Panipat fought?

3.   Who were the opposing forces?

8.3 The Battle of Haldighati

The battle of Haldighati was another historic battle fought during the rule of Akbar in June 1576. It was fought between the ruler of Mewar in Rajasthan, Rana Pratap Singh and Raja Man Singh of Amber who was a great military general of Akbar. Soon after the second battle of Panipat, one by one, all the Rajput kings acknowledged Akbar's supremacy except Rana Udai Singh of Mewar who refused to accept Akbar's supremacy and decided to defend Chittor, his main fortress and capital. Akbar attacked Chittor with a huge army of 40,000 which had guns and muskets while Chittor was defended by 8,000 Rajputs who were ill equipped.

There were large numbers of civilians also in the fort. The fortress fell after a heroic battle in which the Rajputs fought to the last man while their women folk performed collective self-immolation. With the loss of Chittor, Mewar had lost the fertile part of its kingdom to the Mughals. Besides, the unsuccessful battle at Chittor led to loss of the treasury crippling its resource and also demoralizing the fighting ranks. But the next ruler of Mewar, Rana Pratap Singh fought again with Akbar at Haldighati.

a)   **Maharana Rana Pratap Singh :** Rana Pratap Singh was born in 1540 and was given military training and became an excellent rider and expert swordsman. He ascended the throne of Mewar in 1572. Rana Pratap stood alone and was in no position to challenge the might of Mughal Empire under a capable king like Akbar. Akbar tried to win over Rana Pratap by offering him a position in his

Note

court provided he became his vassal. But Rana Pratap rejected this offer. Akbar therefore decided to defeat Rana Pratap when all other diplomatic efforts failed to subdue him. Some important points about Rana Pratap's preparation to fight Akbar were as follows:-

- Rana Pratap took necessary measures to prepare for the coming Mughal invasion. To start with, he established himself in the western hills and forests of his kingdom. He selected the rock fortress of Kumbalgarh as his new capital. He strengthened his fort of Gogunda, north-west of Udaipur and made it his forward base. He remodeled his government and organised it to conduct a long-lasting campaign against the superior Mughal army.

- Pratap toured every village of his state and impressed upon his people the necessity of unity and sacrifice to face the impending danger. Pratap did not believe that only one caste should fight. He felt this was an obsolete concept. He therefore registered the support of not only the martial Kshatriya caste but of all-other castes including the aboriginals, known as Bhils of Rajasthan.

- On his part, Akbar wanted to subdue RanaPratap before his ideas could influence other Rajput kings. Akbar selected Raja Man Singh to lead the Mughal army against Rana Pratap.

b) **The Battle** : Pratap wanted to select the ground of his own choice where his small army could fight the Mughal army with some tactical advantage. He selected the area of Haldi Ghati pass, which was not only a hilly terrain but had a lot of thorny bushes and trees to provide necessary cover. The area of Haldi Ghati also provided an easy exit for Pratap's small army in case of defeat. The troop strength and organisation for battle were as under:-

- According to Mughal court historian Abdul Qadir Badayuni, Pratap's army had approximately 3,000 cavalry. Pratap had perhaps 3000 to 4000 cavalry, some elephants and about 3,000 Bhil infantry men who were also good in use of bow. Pratap's army had neither guns nor muskets.

- The Mughals had approximately 16,000 cavalry, 8,000 infantry, elephant corps and guns, with overall strength of about 28,000 troops. It was organised on the same lines as that of Babur's force.

- The Mughal army deployed with skirmishers holding the front line, behind which was deployed the vanguard. Then came the powerful centre while the flanks were protected by strong contingents deployed on the left as well as the right wings. In the rear were the mobile enveloping contingents who were used to attack the flanks and rear of the enemy army.

- Pratap's small army had a vanguard while the remainder army was divided into left, centre and right wings. He had deployed Bhils, his infantry, to guard the pass from both the flanks. The battle was fought on 18th January, 1576. Pratap took the initiative and started the attack. Before long, Pratap's army was decimated and this unequal contest ended.

c) **Aftermath :** Rana Pratap's army had suffered crippling losses and most of its gallant chiefs had been killed. The blood of Mewar had irrigated the soil of Haldi Ghati. The strategic route to Gujrat from Delhi was secured.

Akbar expected that either Pratap would be captured or killed during the battle. But Pratap had managed to escape after offering a firm resistance where his personal valour had won the hearts of all his followers.

So, from Akbar's point of view, battle of Haldighati was a barren victory, as Pratap continued the struggle to the bitter end, and Akbar had to mount further expeditions to crush Rana Pratap, but without success.

8.4 Causes of Downfall of Mughals

There are several causes for the decline of the Mughal rule in India. They are as follows:

- An open country was a pre-requisite for success of Mughal army, for without this their cavalry could not be deployed effectively. In a mountainous terrain, they were at a terrible disadvantage.

- The army became, in effect, a body of mercenaries who served for personal gains, and were ever ready to desert when things went bad. There was no discipline in the military.

- While Mansabdari system was the key to the structure of Mughal administrative setup, it had its own disadvantages in the army. Each man had so much to lose and so very little to gain, for example, a cavalier rode his own horse, and if it was killed in action, the compensations were disproportionate.

- The most critical point of a battle was the death or disappearance of the leader. The troops lacked discipline and determination; and were subject to panic and sudden flight.

Intext Questions   8.2

1. When was the battle of Haldighati fought and who were the opposing forces?
2. What was the outcome of the battle?

What You Have Learnt

- Mansabdari system was founded by Akbar.

- This system evolved to solidify honorary distinctions for the Mughal warriors. However, despite consolidating power, Akbar was forced to encounter another battle at Panipat for the second time during which the sovereignty over Delhi was established.

- Another aspect is that there was continuous struggle against the Mughals by the Rajputs. Rana Pratap, the gallant son of Udai Singh, dared to oppose the mighty Mughal emperor of India, even after the defeat of Chittor.

- Pratap continued his struggle against the Mughals even after Akbar's barren victory in Haldighati.

- The Mansabdari system which was the source of strength for the Mughal administration proved to be the cause of downfall of the Mughal military structure.

Note

Terminal Exercises

1. What do you understand by the Mansabdari system?
2. Write a short note on the second battle of Panipat.
3. What were the tactics employed by the Mughals at the battle of Haldighati?
4. Mention the causes for the downfall of the Mughals

Answers to in Intext Questions

8.1

1. Titles, Robes of Honor and Gifts
2. October 1556
3. Akbar and Hemu

8.2

1. June 1576 between Akbar and Maharana Rana Pratap Singh
2. Akbar won the battle

9

COLONIAL ERA AND THE INDIAN SEPOY

From our previous lessons we learnt about how the military system came into existence in India and what changes took place over the centuries. In this lesson let us try to understand how the Europeans came into India and ruled our land and in the process laid the foundation for the Indian army, capable of fighting modern day wars.

As you know, India has its natural mountain barriers in the North called the Himalayas and in the South flanked by the Arabian Sea in the West and the Bay of Bengal in the East, thus forming a peninsular India. It is a land of a multi cultural and multi ethnic society with a variety of religions and languages.

After the Mughal rule the English started colonizing India. India then was not a one-nation country with a strong central army or King. This existence of many smaller states favored the European settlements. First came the Portuguese, followed by the French and the British.

Objectives

After studying this lesson you will be able to:

- explain the history of colonial rule in India;

- describe the establishment of the three Presidencies- Madras, Kolkata and Mumbai;

- identify the events leading to the formation of the 'Native Indian Army' by the English and trace the rank structure in the British army.

9.1 History of Colonial Rule

From the military history point of view it is important to review the prevailing situation in India when the Europeans set foot here. Throughout history from ancient times, small kingdoms were comparatively weaker and hence were exploited and conquered. India was a fragmented state, which allowed the British to exploit, and this was the only reason why they succeeded in enslaving the country. There were the Jats, Marathas, Nizam, Rajputs etc. Unfortunately they were not a one big kingdom but
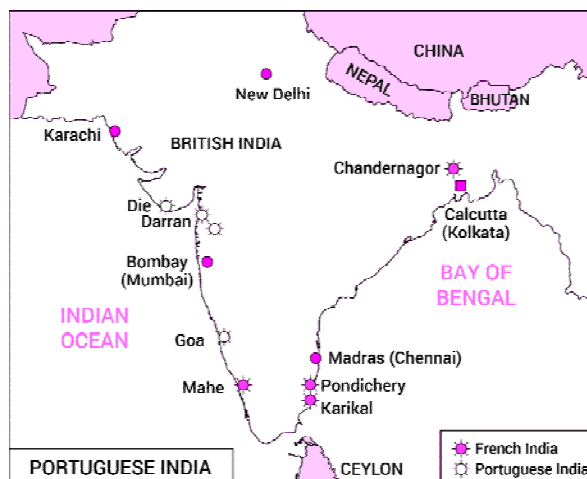
Note

consisted of small princely states, zamindars etc. This period of our history saw four major countries of Europe that came to India for trade and commerce because our country was rich in tradition, wealth and culture. The countries involved were Portugal, France, Holland and Gt. Britain. Let us see each of their exploits starting from the 16th Century to 1947.

9.1.1 The Portuguese in India

Do you know who came first and explored our India? It was the Portuguese. The opening up of seaborne trade of the Europeans in the Indian Ocean to India made a historic revolution in Indian History. By the end of the fifteenth century, Portuguese explored not only the western coast of Africa but also a portion of the mainland beyond the Cape of Good Hope. The original idea of sending the Portuguese that was of the Pope to find the direct sea routes to the resource rich countries especially for the spices and promote Christianity. It was Vasco da Gama who landed in Calicut in India on May 17, 1498. To utilize the rich resource of India and also for the development of their commerce, factories were established and the main aim was to ensure trade. Portuguese occupied the Indian territory by not only establishing factories on the coast of India, but also by establishing military garrisons at a number of strategic points, i.e. at the entrance of the Red Sea and elsewhere outside India to make sure that these strategic places were under their control to do business. They set up military garrisons in India in order to avoid any conflicts with the local Zamorins of Calicut as well as with the Muslim rulers. They also appointed a Viceroy to administer Portuguese nationals. At the beginning of 1505 Francisco d'Almeida set out in command of a large fleet and 1500 soldiers, with orders to build fortresses at Kilwa, Anjadiva, Kannanur and Cochin.In 1510, Alfonzo de Albuquerque captured Goa from the Sultan of Bijapur and made it the capital of the Portuguese eastern empire. A second important centre for the Portuguese in India was Diu in Gujarat. Portuguese spread in India is shown on the map (Map 9.1).

Map 9.1 Portuguese India

Module - III

Military History of the Colonial Era

Note

Q **Intext Questions** **9.1**

1. Who came first and explored India?

2. Who landed in Calicut, India in1498?

9.1.2 The Dutch in India

Do you know who these Dutch people were? The people of Holland are called the Dutch. After the Portuguese the Dutch also explored the high seas and crossed the Indian Ocean and landed in Indian Territory for trade purposes. In 1602 the United East India Company of Netherland was formed and permission was given by the Dutch government to trade with the East Indies including India. All these settlers established their factories in strategic locations in order to attract and develop their business. It also enabled them to easily go back to their home country. In 1605, Admiral Van der Hagen established the first Dutch factory in Masulipattanam in Andhra Pradesh. The other factories that were built were in Pettapoli (Nizamapatanam), Tirupapuliyur and Devenampatnam. The Dutch negotiated with the king of Chandragiri in 1610 and had another factory at Pulicat and it was fortified and named as Geldria. The Chief of Pulicat Van den Broecke became the governor and made a factory at Surat. In 1627 Dutch Bengal was established. The Dutch in Bombay, Ahmedabad, Agra and Burhanpur, Bimlipatam, Karikal, Chinsura, Patna, Balasore, Cochin, Kasimbazar, Gustavus constructed several factories and forts. The other Dutch factories in India were successful than the Portuguese.

The British faced tough challenge for the Dutch, while establishing themselves. This resulted in wars between them. Due to the Anglo-Dutch rivalry, Trivancore Marthanda Varma gave a fatal blow to the Dutch East India Company in the battle of Colachel in 1741, which resulted in complete defeat of Dutch power in Malabar. As a result the British made use of this victory and so they captured the Dutch strongholds.

9.1.3 The French in India

After the Portuguese and the Dutch,, the French also established their companies. In 1664 Jean-Baptiste Colbert founded the French East India Company (Map 9.2). The company established its first factory at Surat under Francis Caron in 1668 and the Second factory was established a year later in Masulipattanam. French East India Company under Francois Martin in 1674 established a trading centre at Pondicherry. In 1693 Dutch captured Pondicherry but returned it to French later. The French acquired Mahe in 1720, Yanam in 1731, and Karaikal in 1738. The other factory they established was in Chandranagar in Bengal. In 1701 Pondicherry was made the capital of French settlements in India. Francois Martin was the President and the Superior Council and director general of French affairs in India. Later in 1742, Joseph Francois Dupleix took charge of the French empire in India. In 1746 he captured Madras but failed to take the neighboring British fort St.David. There were series of fights between the French and the British. In 1744 a British Officer Robert Clive arrived in India who

shattered the hopes of Dupleix to create French Colonies in India. During the Seven Years War (1756-63) between France and England, the French forces were defeated and the capital was captured in 1761. The French East India Company lacked support of their government. In 1765 Pondicherry was returned to the French after a peace treaty with England. After the Napoleonic wars in 1816, all the establishments from Pondicherry, Karaikal, Yanam, Mahe, Chanderanagore, Surat, Machilipatnam and Kozhikode were returned to France. The French colonies in India remained separate from British India, without any interference.

French Posessions And Colonies in India

Chandernagor

Yanaon

Pondichery

Mahe

Karikal
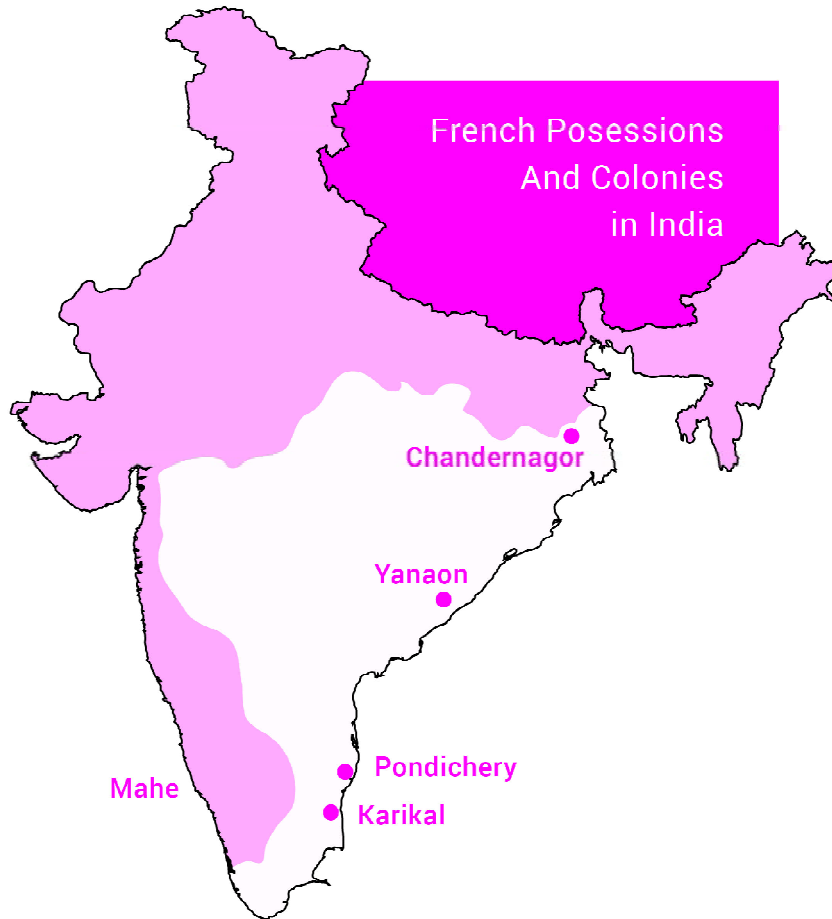
Map 9.2

Intext Question **9.2**

1.   Who established first Dutch factory in Masulipatnam?

2.   Mention few places where the Dutch established their factories in India.

3.   Who established the French East India Company in India?

9.1.4 The British in India

As we have seen already that the British East India Company established its presence in India way back in 1612, wherein they established factories in India for trading

purposes. The Company slowly consolidated its foothold by being friendly with all the local rulers and cleverly exploited their weaknesses. As was the case with other Europeans, the British East India Company also had a few troops, which were later supported by locally recruited sepoys. The Company won a major victory in the Battle of Plassey in 1757, which became the remarkable beginning of its foothold in Eastern India. The Strength of the East India Company increased after its victory in 1764 at the Battle of Buxar in which it defeated the combined Mughal armies of Nawab of Bengal, Nawab of Awadh and King Shah Alam II and expanded its territory around its bases in Bombay and Madras. The Anglo-Mysore Wars (1766 -1799) and the Anglo-Maratha Wars (1772-1818) gave way to the control of the vast region of India south of Narmada River. Indians in almost all the regions of the country contested the Company's rule. They could not stop the rebellions and therefore in order to suppress the rebellions, the British Parliament passed a bill to take over the administration of India from the East India Company by the British Crown on 2nd August 1858, immediately after the First Indian War of Independence in 1857. The East India Company was condemned by the British Government for their lack of control and allowing this event to take place.
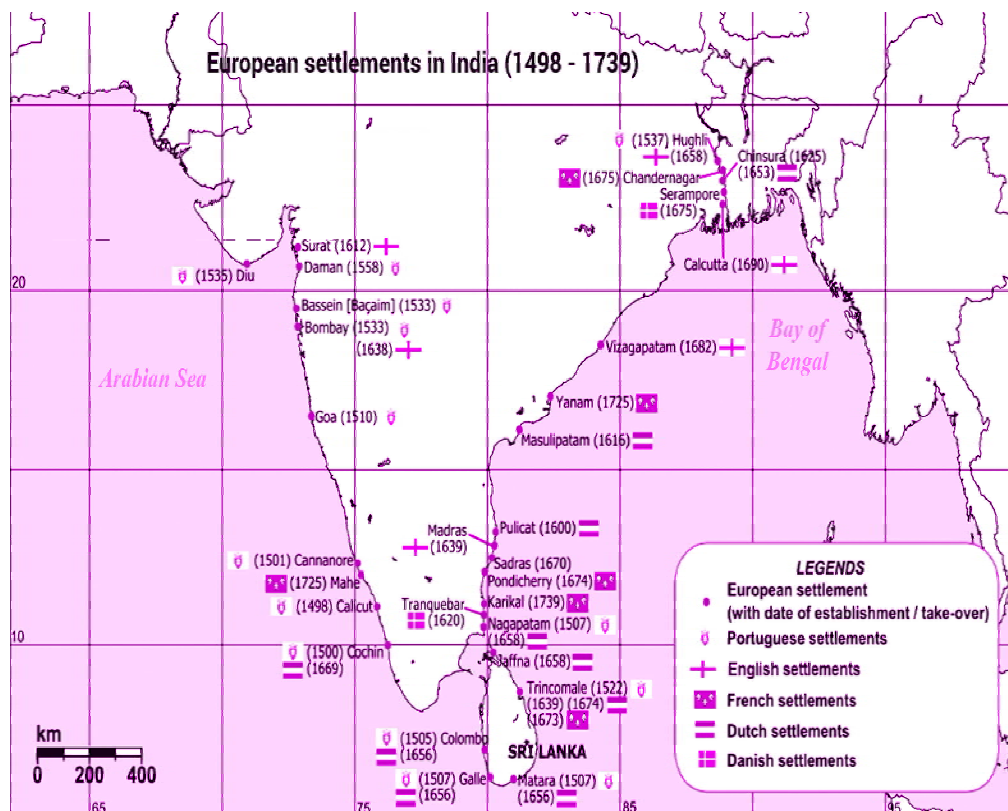
Map 9.3- European Settlement in India

To avoid further disaster in future the company surrendered all their powers to the Crown. The title of Viceroy was introduced who was the representative of the British Crush in India. A complete picture of the presence of various colonies is given in the map given above (Map 9.3).

Activity | **9.1**

You have learnt how the Europeans came and established the ports in India. Identify the port cities where the foreigners built factories.

9.2 Idea of the Three Presidencies

What is the meaning of the word Presidency? It means an office where the President sits and controls the area under him/her. Why did the British come up with the idea of Presidencies? As you have seen, the British established factories and started trade in large number of commodities. The control and administration of the factories and the people employed by the British was to be coordinated under one person. They built Fort St George in Chennai and later established the **Madras Presidency** in 1684. William Gyfford became the first President. What started off as a Headquarters for administration later started controlling other areas militarily. The British started expanding their control into Mysore, Thanjavur, Vishakapattinam etc in the South and similarly, areas around Kolkotta and Mumbai. This led to fights with the local rulers and with the established kingdoms of the Nizam, Marathas, Rajputs and the Nawab of Bengal. The role of the Presidencies created in **Kolkatta, Chennai and Mumbai** were as follows:-

- To have an administrative office to control the activity of trade and commerce from the ports.

- To ensure the safety and security of the goods and services of the trading companies.

- To build a strong army in order to expand and establish control in India.

- The Company's military under Robert Clive fought many battles to establish its supremacy and control over India. The main battles fought were the 1757 Battle of Plassey, the 1764 Battle of Buxar (in Bihar) and The Company thus became the de facto ruler of large areas of the lower Gangetic plains by 1773.

- It also proceeded slowly to expand its dominions around Bombay and Madras. The Anglo-Mysore Wars (1766-99) and the Anglo-Maratha Wars (1772-1818) ensured its control of large areas of India south of the Sutlej River.

- Establish a civil-military rule in India.

  The famous quote that "the Sun never sets in British Empire" which indicates the expansion of the British Colonies across the globe. Wherever the British conquered countries they became permanent settlers. Thus, the three Presidencies of Madras, Bengal and Bombay were created both as administrative as well as military centers.

Note

Q **Intext Questions** **9.3**

1.   What is the meaning of Presidency?

2.   When was Bengal Presidency established?

9.2.1 The Organisation of the Presidencies

Having created the Presidencies the East India Company made an organization, in each of these locations, to rule the areas, which were annexed by them. The Presidencies had one Governor who was the head and assisted by a council of four members. This included one Commander-in-chief of the Army. Each of these presidencies had its own army and was called Bengal Presidency (the Bengal Army), Madras Presidency (the Madras Army) and Bombay Presidency (the Bombay Army). They had regular regiments of British soldiers and officers. Slowly the Company started recruiting Indian natives to serve as sepoys in these armies. You will learn in the later sections how men were selected to become soldiers. In the map (Map 9.5) given below, you can see the territory controlled by each of these presidencies with Bengal being the largest and Bombay the smallest.
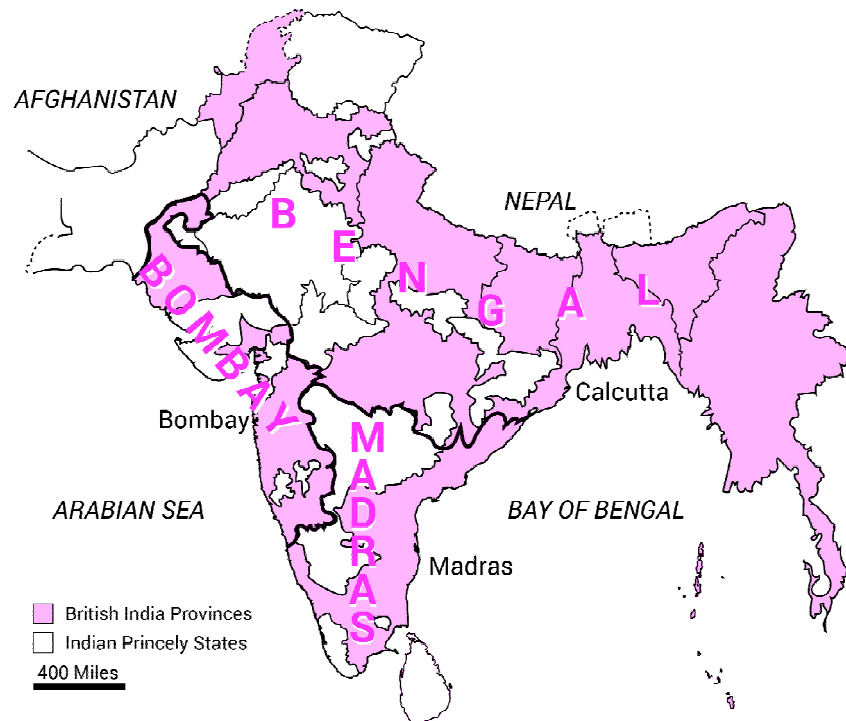
Map 9.5 - Administrative areas of India in the 1930s

9.3 Native Indian Army

The western countries believe that Indian army became a professional army because of the British. This is wrong. You have seen in the previous lessons on how well we had established armies and fought various wars. You will learn later how popular Western

perception on the origins and ethos of the Indian Army emphasizes that it was the period from the mid eighteenth century to the period when India gained Independence from the British rule in which the Indian Army emerged as a cohesive fighting army. However, you have learnt that Indians were past masters raising armies and having effective functional organizations since as early as the vedic times. Therefore, in this section we will first see the state of India, its empires and the armies so that one can understand how the Dutch, Portuguese, the French and the English exploited us and ruled over India for 200 years, and plundered our wealth and honour.

The origin of the British Indian Army and subsequently the army of independent India lies in the origins of the Presidency Armies, which preceded them. The first purely Indian troops employed by the British were watchmen employed in each of the Presidencies of the British East India Company to protect their trading stations. These were all placed in 1748 under one Commander-in-chief, Major-General Stringer Lawrence who is regarded as the "Father of the Indian Army". From the mid-eighteenth century, the East India Company began to maintain armies at each of its three main stations, or Presidencies of British India, at Calcutta (Bengal), Madras and Bombay. The Bengal Army, Madras Army, and Bombay Army were quite distinct, each with its own Regiments and cadre of European officers. All three armies contained European regiments in which both the officers and men were Europeans, as well as a larger number of 'Native' regiments, in which the officers were Europeans and the other ranks were Indians. They included Artillery, Cavalry and Infantry regiments and historical sources refer to the Bengal/Madras/Bombay Artillery/Cavalry/Infantry (the latter often termed 'Native Infantry' or 'N.I.'). From the mid-eighteenth century onwards, the Crown began to dispatch regiments of the regular British Army to India, to reinforce the Company's armies. These troops were often referred to as 'H.M.'s Regiments' or 'Royal regiments'. By 1824, the size of the combined armies of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay was about 200,000 and 16 European regiments. In 1844 the combined average strength of the three armies was 235,446 native and 14,584 European.

It is important to understand that the sea played a vital role in colonial era because the European powers began to send their ships to India for trade. The ships of Spain, Portugal, Holland, France and England fought with each other on their way, in the high seas, more out of trade rivalry than any military significance. It will be seen later that the British very cleverly and systematically overcame the French, Dutch and Portuguese to establish themselves to rule over India for almost 200 years. The first factor was that, Great Britain had established a very strong navy and was considered a great naval power. It gave them the force and mobility to go to any part of the world and build their business. The second was the wealth of India and the desire and greed of the British to prosper at the cost of Indians. The third and the most important factor, which helped them to succeed, was that India was divided amongst small princely states and there was no single unifying ruler. The Mughals in the North were a declining power and so were the Marathas in the South. The decision that the Englishmen took to recruit Indians in their force can be considered as the starting point for the

Note

development of the present day Indian Army. Obedience, hard work, patience, preparing them to work under any circumstances formed the basic ethos and life of an Army soldier.

9.3.1 Identification of warrior class among Indian Society

Can you imagine a person without physical or mental fitness serving in the military? No. The person has to be physically fit and should fulfil the criteria required by the services. Therefore, the British recruited heavily from what they called as the 'martial races' for service in the colonial army. The Marathas, Mysore army in the South and Bengalis in the East created maximum problems for the British. Also, the Rajputs, Jats and the Gurkhas were used to resist and fight with the Mughals and had the spirit of a warrior.

The British, therefore created a Martial race and named the Sikhs, Jats, Rajputs and Gurkhas as martial race communities. They did not include the South Indians and Bengalis. The British wanted to create a caste difference and recruit only those whom they considered as being loyal to the British Raj and the community. 'Martial race' comprised typically brave and well-built men who had been wariors traditionaly suited to the soldiers. Men from these communities had developed qualities.

Do you know which was the first army in British India? The Bengal Army was among the first to come together to form a impressive unit, with recruits coming mostly from Awadh (present-day Uttar Pradesh). The Hindu upper-caste from the Bengal Native Army had a collective common interest. The Indian troops in the English East India Company's service were recruited as infantrymen and commanded only by the European officers.

The increase in the number of troops became essential between 1763 and 1805 and it is accounted that the Bengal army grew from 6,680 to 64,000 men, the Madras army from 9,000 to 64,000, and the Bombay army from 2,550 to 26,500.

Each Presidency army had a overall commands. For example, the officer who commanded the Bengal army was the commander in chief and so it was for other Presidency armies also. The recruitment of South Indians was required to defend the British Empire against the French and also essential support units such as Engineers, Artillery and cavalry were required. South Indians were recruited for such regiments. This system continued upto the 1857 mutiny. The East India Company with its native Indian army could not defeat the rebellion.

This prompted the Queen of England to establish British rule and have a proper army. Thereafter the British had a relook at their requirement of army and made a policy of recruiting soldiers from the Sikhs, Dogras, Gurkhas and select Muslim communities from Punjab and Baluchistan. These soldiers were also tested in many places including World War I and II.

The Gurkhas were also promised to be taken to England and serve the Queen later. That is why you have Gurkha regiments in today's British army. The British used the word 'Native' to describe Indians and hence we have the word Native Indian Army. The British used this term during the period of recruitment.

9.3.2 Rank Structure in the British Army in India

We saw how the recruitment took place for sepoys of the Indian army. Let us now move on to the rank structures. The rank structures are very much essential to have command and control in the units.

Ranks are prestigious to the army. Before we see the ranks in the army let us understand why we need these ranks. Just as in a factory we have the supervisor and manager, we have ranks in the army. The reasons for having ranks are:-

- Command and control during war & peace.

- Better administration of Army

- Some ranks were created to act as a link between the British officers and the sepoys.

In the British Indian army, the term Sepoy was a designation given to the Indian soldier. They were from the local communities of the Bombay and Madras presidencies. As mentioned earlier, the sepoy in the Bengal army was from high class Brahmin family. The basic chain of command started with the European captain at the top, followed by subaltern, sergeant majors (also European), under whom were subedars, jamadars, and havildar-naiks (recruiting agents).

The sepoys (native soldiers) in each battalion were divided into ten companies that comprised one subedar, three jamadars, four naiks, two drummers, one trumpeter, and seventy sepoys. Earlier the subedar had commanded an independent company, now his company became one among nine or ten that made up a battalion.

What You Have Learnt

- The colonial powers originated from Europe

- They came to India for trade and commerce

- There was lack of unity among Indian rulers then

- The colonial powers had hatred among themselves and fought with each other

- They organized armies for the security for the three Presidencies in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta and later they started recruiting soldiers regularly from Native Indians

- The high level officers belonged to British while the lower level soldiers were from the natives

- Rank structures were introduced slowly to these armies

Note

Terminal Exercises

1. Name the countries of Europe that came to India for trade and commerce.

2. How did the Portuguese occupy the Indian territory?

3. How did the British capture the Dutch strongholds in Eastern India?

4. Which of the combined armies that the Britishers defeated at the battle of Buxar in 1764?

5. What does the title of Viceroy signify?

6. Mention the role of Presidencies created by the Britishers in India.

7. Give any two factors that led to British supremacy over the French and Dutch.

8. What are the reasons for introducing structures in India?

Answers to Intext Questions

9.1

1. The Dutch.

2. Vasco Da Gama.

9.2

1. Admiral Van Der Hagen

2. Masulipattinam, Pettapoli, Pulicat.

3. Francois Martin

9.3

1. Presidency means an office where the President sits and controls the area under him/her.

2. 1765

10

375en10

BATTLES FOUGHT IN THE COLONIAL ERA

In the previous lessons we learnt how the native Indians were recruited in the British Army and the establishment of the three Presidencies. The British wanted to make themselves as the sole rulers in India. Moreover, they also had their differences and animosity with the Dutch and French on matters of trade and commerce. A number of wars were fought between these nations. Let us see the major battles fought by the British in their quest to establish supremacy and domination in India.

Objectives

After studying this lesson you will be able to:

- List the Wars fought by the British to establish their power in India.

10.1 The Anglo Dutch Wars

The British could not tolerate the presence other Europeans especially the Dutch who were having a great deal of trade when they entered India. It was a kind of business rivalry where the British wanted to have a monopoly on trade. Therefore, to suppress their power the British went to war against the Dutch in India as well as in European seas. There were four Anglo- Dutch Wars between 1652 to 1783. The war between the Dutch and British was mainly over the trade interests and they were entirely naval in character.

The First Anglo Dutch War in 1652-1654 was fought in the waters of Goodwin Sands, the Second War in 1665-67, the third war in 1672, and the fourth in 1770-1773. Then there was the Seven Years War (1756-63). This was the last major conflict before the French Revolution to involve all the great powers of Europe. In India, the outbreak of this war in Europe changed the long running conflict between the French and the British trading companies for influence of power. The war spread beyond Southern India and into Bengal, where British forces under Robert Clive recaptured Calcutta from Nawab Sirajud-Daulah, who had the support of French, in the Battle of Plassey in 1757.

Module - III

Military History of the Colonial Era

Note

Intext Questions   10.1

1.   How many Anglo- Dutch Wars took place between 1652 to 1783?

2.   When was the Battle of Plassey fought?

10.1.1 The Battle of Adyar- 24 October 1746

This battle was a part of the First Carnatic War between the English and the French. This particular battle was between the French East India Company and the forces of the Nawab of Arcot to recapture Fort St George. Nawab of Arcot, who was a close ally to the British, gave his army. His son Mahfuz Khan led his troops to regain the fort from the French. In the battle that followed, Khan was forced to retreat to South of Adyar River and later he captured the area of Santhome. However, The French forces, which included native Indians, trained by the French, attacked the British from the seaside. They used effective guns effectively and a pitched battle followed. The effective artillery fire broke the defences of the Khan's troops and the French retained control over St George Fort. It will be later battles in which the British finally managed to defeat the French and remove them from India.

10.1.2 The Battle of Wandiwash -22 January 1760

This battle was a part of Seven Year War, which weakened the French position. It was a decisive victory for the British who ended the French dominance in Southern India. Wandiwash was besieged by the French forces with an approximate strength of 2000 men under the command of Thomas Arthur de Lally. Similar strength of British force under the command of Colonel Eyre Coote arrived at Wandiwash to relieve the fort. Lally could see some unrest like situation so he sent his troops to make a charge along with artillery, followed by a cavalry charge where his army could not resist the determined musketry (Musket is a rifle which was long and used in 17 and 18th century). Lally moved his infantry into the battle. Accurate artillery fire from the British artillery destroyed an important ammunition dump. This caused a collapse of one flank of the French forces and they were forced to retreat to Pondicherry.

10.1.3 The Mysore Wars

There were four military confrontations in India between the British and the rulers of Mysore during the years 1767-69, 1780-84, 1790-92 and 1799. During 1761 a Muslim adventurer by name Hyder Ali who was a commander in chief made himself as the ruler of Mysore and started expanding his rule. In 1766 The East India Company joined hands with the Nizam of Hyderabad to fight against Hyder Ali but later the Nizam withdrew and the British were left alone to face Hyder Ali. In the first war Hyder Ali appeared before the company and dictated peace. In the second war in 1780 Hyder Ali joined hands with the Marathas to fight against the British and established himself in Karnataka. Afetr the death of Hyder Ali in December 1782 the Britisher's made peace with Tipu Sultan, son of Hyder Ali. A treaty called the Treaty of Manglore was signed in 1784.

When Tipu's name was dropped from the company's "friends" list by Governor General Lord Cornwallis the third Mysore war began in 1790. Tippu was stopped in 1792 at Seringapatam (now Shrirangapattana, Karnataka) and was forced to surrender half of his dominions. Tipu then requested France for help in fighting the British, which was agreed and given. Governor General Lord Mornington undertook the fourth war and in a fierce battle Tipu died and the British defeated his troops

10.1.4 The Maratha Wars

There were three Anglo-Maratha Wars between the army of British East India Company and the Maratha Empire during the years 1775-1782, 1803-1805, 1816-1819. The first war began with the treaty of Surat and ended with the treaty of Salbai. After the fall of Mysore in 1799-1800 the Marathas were the only major power left outside the control of British India and during the second Maratha war the British again defeated the Marathas.

Do you Know?

Shivaji created a body of professional army in place of irregular army. The army was put under a chain of command and was paid in cash. The importance of Navy was realized very early by the Shivaji and a strong Navy was created which was stationed at Kolaba. Similarly Forts were also maintained properly as it played a vital role in the defence mechanism. The officers were appointed especially at forts to take special care of it.

The smallest unit of Cavalry consisted of 25 troopers and was placed under a Havaldar. The Cavalry was divided into two classes-Bargis and Shiledars. The Bargis were given the horses and arms by the state while the Shiledars had to find them on their own. The smallest unit of Infantry consisted of 9 soldiers and was placed under Naik.

The third Maratha war was the final and decisive conflict between the Maratha Empire and the British East India Company. This war left the company in control of most of the India. At the end of the war, all of the Maratha powers had surrendered to the British. Marathi language was recognized in the Bombay Presidency and started after 1820.

Intext Question **10.2**

1. Who was the commander in chief who later became the ruler of Mysore?
2. Who was Hyder Ali's Son?

What You Have Learnt

- The colonial powers were at war with each other.
- The reasons for the several wars they fought were rivalry over trade and

Note

commerce and jealousy.

* The wars led to expansion and control of power by the British over large territory

* The British used different tactics to win over the native forces.

Terminal Exercises

1. When and between whom was the seven years' war fought?

2. How were the French forces able to retain control over St. George's fort?

3. What were the causes for the third Mysore war?

4. Which Maratha war led to the complete control of India?

Answers to Intext Questions

10.1 (i) Four   (ii)   1757

10.2 (i) Hyder Ali   (ii)   Tipu Sultan

11

375en11

REVOLT OF 1857 AND REFORMS IN THE INDIAN ARMY

The British faced a number of resistance from Indians throughout their occupation of India. There were mutinies, battles fought, but they were cunning and had superior fire arms which gave them victories. You learnt about the wars fought by Indians to drive away the British, in the previous lesson. There were some important mutinies which as a student of history you must know and understand the importance of fighting for one's rights and freedom. The mutinies also brought in reforms among the military. In this lesson, let us see the various mutinies and the first war of independence that took place and also learn about the military reforms.

Objectives

After studying this lesson you will be able to:

- analyse the reasons for mutinies that happened during the rule of the British and
- explain the military reforms.

11.1 Vellore Mutiny by Madras Native Infantry

As a student of Military history one should know or study about why Vellore Mutiny also known as Indian Mutiny took place in the year 1806. This incident is considered to be the first revolt against the British who colonized us. This mutiny by the native Indians was due to a change in dress code ordered by the British, in which the Muslims were ordered to shave their beards and trim the moustaches and the Hindus prohibited from wearing a tilak on their fore head. General Sir John Craddock who was the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army ordered the sepoys to wear a round hat which resembled like the one used by the Europeans and gave the impression as if the Indians had converted to Christianity. All these issues triggered the sentiments of Muslims and the Hindus and also the sepoys of the Indian natives were ill treated and punished. In this revolt, the mutineers seized Vellore fort and killed or wounded more than 150 British troops.

Module - III

Military History of the Colonial Era

11.1.1 First war of Independence.

This event occurred in 1857 not as a result of any single event, but as an culmination of many happenings over time. We know that the Company's army recruited large number of Hindu and Muslim sepoys as native soldiers. There were nearly 300,000 sepoys in the army and the British were about 50,000. There was huge difference. The forces were divided into three presidencies. When compared to Madras Army and Bombay Army, the Bengal Army recruited higher castes like Rajputs and Brahmins. The selection was not based on the physical fitness, willingness, courage and strength instead, it was more on caste basis. What were the factors that led to a revolt?

- First was the policy of recruiting higher caste Brahmins in the army, thus causing misunderstanding and rift within the sepoys.

- Second was the rumour that the British were converting hindus and muslims to Christianity. The British were also working towards abolition of Sati (a practice of the wife killing herself when her husband died).

- Then there were other smaller issues such as delayed promotions to Indian soldiers and exclusion from Foreign Service.

- It has been said that the spark to start the mutiny was over the issue of rifle cartridges (ammunition used in rifles) in which it was rumored that they were made from pig/cow fat. To use the ammunition one had to use teeth to bite and tear away the wrappings. This went against the sentiments of both the hindus and muslims.

Do you Know?

Mangal Pandey was born in a high caste hindu family in Uttar Pradesh (Ballia).He joined the 34th Bengal native infantry as a sepoy at a young age. The legend describes him as a 9ft. tall man! He got hugely enraged by the introduction of the New Enfield rifle. It was rumoured that the cartridge was made up of animal fat mainly from Cows and Pigs. To use this rifle the soldiers were to bite off the cartridge.

Enraged by this and to show his anger he decided to take violent action against the Britishers. He fired upon Lt. Baugh the Adjutant of the 34th Bengal native Infantry on 29th march 1857.He encouraged his fellow sepoys to join him. He was later arrested in injured condition and was sentenced to death. He was hanged on 8th April 1857, ten days before the fixed date of execution. The daring and dashing act of Mangal Pandey triggered off series of revolts all over the country.

The Indian govt. issued a stamp to commemorate him in 1984.

The revolt started earlier than schedule because a sepoy named Mangal Pandey hit and wounded a British sergeant. He was later arrested and hanged for causing a mutiny. This mutiny led to a number of other such revolts against the East India Company. You must have heard of brave Indians like Jhansi ki Rani, Tantia Tope and other communities of Rajputs and Jats, which revolted. The Company was slow to act but later they managed to stop the rebellion with superior firepower and weapons. These revolts led to the dismissal of the East India Company and establishment of a direct rule by the Queen of England. The army organization also changed.

Intext Questions **11.1**

1.   What is the name of the first Indian Mutiny in 1806?

2.   Which Mutiny took place in 1857?

3.   Name the Sepoy who hit and wounded a British Soldier?

11.3 Reforms in the Indian Army

The failure of the East India Company prompted the Queen to take over governance of India and proclaim it under the 'Crown'. Let us try to understand what reforms took place after the Queen's rule in India. After the 1857 war of Independence the Company rule came to an end and the crown took over India. A grand durbar was held at Allahabad on November 1, 1858. Lord Canning sent forth the royal proclamation that the queen will be the deciding authority in India and this proclamation declared the future policy of the British Rule in India. The document was called "Magna Carta of the People of India". It gave clear guidelines on Principles of Justice and religious tolerance in the Queen's rule. The Doctrine of Lapse (allow company to annex the principality of any Indian ruler who died without natural heirs or one who was manifestly incompetent or not fit to rule) was cancelled and the British stopped the policy of annexation. The document also granted forgiveness to all, except those who had directly taken part in murdering the British people. Peace was proclaimed throughout India on July 8, 1859. The armies of the East India Company came to an end and the forces in India were incorporated as an integral part of the British army. The most important thing happened due to this proclamation was that the Indian Sepoys were enlisted in the regular service in the British Indian Army and they participated in the Wars fought by the British army.

So what were the reforms that took place, which changed the outlook of the British Indian Army? The British Indian army was becoming stronger as time passed by and modern technology was introduced in the form of guns, rifles and ammunition. By the end of the nineteenth century the army had changed from mere guards and temporary recruits of locals, it had become a professional fighting force with proper regiments of

infantry, cavalry and artillery. Indian officers were recruited to lead the battle. The native Indian army was now called the British Indian army and the soldiers were professional, honest men with a sense of unity. The organisation of the army was also strengthened The professionalism of Indian soldiers and officers would be put to test during World Wars I & II. During these wars they showed the world how brave and disciplined they were. Many battles were won in both the wars because of the Indians. The reforms in the army that were carried out were as follows:-

(a)   Organisation of Infantry : Just as companies have managers, supervisors, an army also has a rank structure which essentially gives levels of responsibilities to capable persons. A battalion of infantry had 600 sepoys with Subedar, Jamadar, Havildars and Naiks. The officers were British initially, with 6 officers in a battalion. Later, Indian officers were commissioned and given responsibility to lead the men. They were called the King's Commissioned Officers or KCO in short. The first batch of KCOs included, Commander-in-Chief Tripura Forces and Colonel Rana Jodha Jung Bahadur, Amar Singh, Major General A A Rudra, K A D Naoroji (grandson of Dadabhai Naoroji), Field Marshal K M Cariappa and C B Ponnappa.

(b)   Organisation of Cavalry : Similar reorganization was made in Cavalry too. In 1861 it was decided that each regiment of the Native cavalry in Bengal would consist of 420 sowars (sepoys), divided into six troops with, making a total of 499 of all ranks. They would have Risaldars (same as Subedars in Infantry), Wardi Major, Jamadars, Dafadars (same as Havildars in infantry) and Trumpeters. Each regiment had One British Commandant and 5 British officers. A Native Cavalry regiment was divided into three squadrons. Each Squadron had 152 men and 152 horses. These in later years would be converted to tanks. After the 1857, young British Officers were posted to Native regiments only after they had been thoroughly trained in the British regiment. They were compulsorily required to learn the Indian languages so that they could establish rapport with their men and also ensure that orders and instructions were explained to the sepoys in the local language. The Native soldiers were deliberately armed with inferior weapons to those given to the British privates, due to a fear that Indians could revolt anytime.

What You Have Learnt

- We clearly understood main causes, which led to the first war of independence.
- The after effects brought in many changes in the military organizations.
- The British Indian army was now organized into a professional army on the lines of the British model. They had a proper rank structure and responsibilities.

- Regular military training was started which would prove to be very useful in the wars, which they would be required to fight.

Terminal Questions

1. How did the British settle in India?

2. Write a short note about battle of Wandiwash.

3. What were the reasons for the 1857 mutiny?

4. What document was called the Magna Carta of India?

Answers to Intext Questions

11.1

1. Vellore Mutiny
2. Sepoy Mutiny
3. Mangal Pandey

Note

375en12

12

INDIAN ARMY IN WORLD WAR I AND II

India Troops under the British, participated in both the World Wars. As you have learnt that, the native Indian sepoys were organized into 'Regular Army' after the First war of Independence in 1857, and they trained and practiced the art of fighting under the British troops and officers. It was during the First World War that they got a real feel of the battle and faced the tough conditions of war. They were away from their homes and in foreign land, braving the difficult conditions and the cold weather in Europe and later in Afghanistan, Africa and Burma. Indian soldiers won many gallantry medals and were among the highly decorated soldiers. Their disciplined conduct made them favourites in all the countries they had gone to. It is therefore important to know the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers and officers who actually helped the allied powers win the wars.

Objectives

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

- explain why the first and the second World Wars were fought;

- explain India's contributions in the battles of the WW-I;

- list the major battle of World War-I and

- assess the role to Indian army in World War-II.

12.1 World War I

For the first time in the history of the world, many countries took part in a major war that extended for four years from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918 and which affected several countries of the world as well. It was called the Great War or the First World War. Before we see why the war was fought let us see the countries involved in the conflict. These weres Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire (called the Central Powers) against Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Japan and the United States (called the Allied Powers). It was a war on very large-scale. Thousands of troops were involved and a large number of battles were fought, which caused extensive damage, destruction of property and death of numerous civilians

and soldiers. As a Colony of Britain the British Indian army too was involved in the war. Let us study the major wars and find out why it was fought and how did the British Indian army contribute to the war effort of the British and allies.

12.1.1 Reasons for the war

Many causes can be attributed to the outbreak of the war. Of the several causes for the starting of the war, the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir apparent to the Austrian Empire, on 28 June 1914 at Sarajevo in Bosnia is considered as the spark. By this time, there was tension between the major European powers fuelled mainly by Germany's ambition to be a major power in Europe and as a competitor to Britain in commerce and trade. This had led to the formation of two power blocks in Europe, the Triple Alliance comprising Germany, Austria and Hungary; and the Triple Entente (entente means a friendly and informal understanding between countries) of England, France and Russia. Few would have imagined that the pistol shots in Sarajevo would lead to a brutal four-year war and would draw in most of the world. The countries had high nationalistic feelings, which contributed to economic policies, which caused competition with one another. Besides, there was no effective international organization that could serve to a arbitrated between the nations.

The other reason was that countries were entering into secret alliances (alliances means tractics between countries to help each other militaries) based on the personal ambitions of the political leaders. Such secret alliances further contributed to suspicions about the activities of the other country. Although many reasons contributed, the immediate cause as noted above was the Sarajevo incident in which the Crown Prince of Austria-Hungary, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated along with his wife on 28 June 1914 in Sarajevo. Where was the war fought? See the map (Map 12.1) below to understand the countries where this war took place.

Map 12.1 The spread of world war-I

Module - III

Military History of the Colonial Era

Note

12.1.2 India's Participation in World War I

Let us now see the contribution of the Indian troops in World War I. At that time it was known as the British Indian Army or British Indian troops. The Indian troops were deployed in war without preparation and without proper clothing in a foreign land, in winters. Yet they played an important role as part of the allied forces and their performance in battle was remarkable and praised by all countries. Over 1.5 million soldiers from various parts of India including Punjab, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Tamil Nadu volunteered to take part in Britain's war effort. They fought both in the Western Front and in the Eastern theatre of war and continued even beyond 1918 in Afghanistan & Persia (up to 1920). The gallant Indian soldiers earned various medals and honors for their services. These include: 11 Victoria Cross, 5 Military Cross, 973 Indian Order Of Merit & 3130 Indian Distinguished Service Medals during the WW I. As far as the number of regiments that took part in the war is concerned about 12 Cavalry Regiments, 13 Infantry Regiments & several other units of other Arms / Services participated in the 13 Campaigns of WW 1. India was fighting on the British side and the only satisfaction that Indians could have was that the war served as 'training ground for fighting in a modern warfare'. In 1914, at the outset of the war, the strength of the British Indian army was 23,000 British and 78,000 Indian soldiers. India sent the following contingents to various theatres at the outset of war:

France	2xInfantry Divisions; 2xCavalry Divisions 4xArtillery Brigades
Persian Gulf Egypt	1xInfantry Division 6xInfantry Brigades; 1xCavalry Brigade

India provided Britain with not just men and material, but finances as well to fight World War 1. India gave £100 million towards the cost of the war. An initial offer of a lump sum of £100 million was made in 1917. Three quarters of this amount was raised through War loans or bonds and the rest given by the Government of India. In terms of direct monetary contribution India gave £146.2 million from its revenues. According to one account, there were approximately 172,815 animals, which included 85,953 horses, 65,398 ponies and mules, 10,781 camels, 5,061 bullocks, 5,692 dairy cattle and 369.1 million tons of supplies and stores, which left the ports of India for various destinations. Within the first few weeks of the war, India supplied 70,000,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 6,00,002 rifles, mortars and machine guns. Considerable quantities of shell cases were manufactured. The Army Clothing Department produced 41,920,223 garments between 1914 and 1918. Raw materials like rough tanned hides; wool, manganese, mica, salt, timber, bamboo, raw silk, hemp, coir, tea, rubber,

petroleum oils and foodstuffs were supplied. A total of 2,737,862 tons of items such as rice, flour, atta, ghee, sugar, tea, tinned meat, grain and hay for animals, jam, biscuits and firewood were shipped from India up to March 1919. You can see the huge effort that is required to maintain troops in war. More importantly, India had all these even in those times and could proudly give to the countries that needed them.

Intext Questions   **12.1**

1.   Which incident in Sarajevo in Bosnia started the WW I?

2.   Name any three countries which were part of an Alliance in World War I?

3.   Approximately how many Indian soldiers took part in World War I?

12.2 Major Battles of World War I

Let us now see the battles in which the Indian soldiers were deployed. These are given in a chronological order of month and year. Indian forces were deployed during the War. There were 7 forces, created to fight in different parts of Europe and Africa. The Indians managed to either win in attack operations or defend effectively a given area of ground. The war had new weapons, new tactics of fighting from a trench which is also called Trench warfare. Imagine if enemy is sitting inside a dug out and you have to attack and capture him. The attacker is exposed and the defender is well protected inside the trench. That is why sheer bravery was required to win a battle. But it also caused huge casualties in the form of death and injuries. What is Victoria Cross? It is the highest medal given for an act of exceptional courage shown in battle. It is an award given by the Government of Britain. 11 Indian soldiers were awarded the Victoria Cross for their courage and bravery in battle during the Fist World War.

(i)   Role in YPRES (BELGIUM)

The first major battle in which Indian troops took part was the First Battle of Ypres, a small market town in Flanders bordering present day Belgium. In Ypres, Belgium, the allies consisting of British Expeditionary Force(BEF), French and Belgium troops took part in the attack against Germans. There were five battles fought in Ypres and the Indian army now called BEF fought in all the battles. Troops of the Indian Corps were fully committed there and suffered heavy causalities.

On 22nd April 1915 the second Battle of Ypres began with the first gas attack in the history of warfare. Again the British Indian Corps was called upon to fill the gap in the lines. Among the British Indian troops the warning was spread. In those days there was no gas mask to defend against such gas attacks. The Indian army gave a good display of fighting skills and brave actions enabled the

allies to gain victory over the Germans.

(ii) Role In France

With Britain entering the War on 4 August 1914, the Indian Army was soon drafted to fight in the battlefields of France and Flanders on 6 September 1914, this being the first time that Indian soldiers were deployed in Europe. The Indian Corps comprising of the Lahore and Meerut Divisions fought in the Battle of Somme, Passchendaele, Ypres, Neuve Chapelle where they provided half the attacking force for the British. Indian troops fought in Flanders where the bravery of Sepoy Khudadad Khan earned him the prestigious Victoria Cross (VC), the highest decoration for bravery in war awarded by the Queen of England. He became the first Indian to receive this honour.

(iii) Battle of Neuve Chapelle

The Battle of Neuve Chapelle, which took place in March 1915 was a British offensive in the Artois region of France and broke through at Neuve Chapelle. On 10 March, the British began a thirty-five minute Artillery bombardment by 90 x 18 pdr field guns of the Indian Corps and the IV Corps, on the German wire, which was destroyed within ten minutes. The bombardment was followed by an infantry assault.

The Garhwal Brigade of the Meerut Division, Indian Corps attacked with all four battalions on a 600 yards front, from Port Arthur to Pont Logy. The Indian troops forced their way through the German wire and took 200 yards of the German front trench, despite many casualties. 40,000 Allied troops took part during the battle and 7,000 British and 4,200 Indian suffered casualties. The 7th Division had 2,791 casualties, the 8th Division 4,814 losses, the Meerut Division 2,353 casualties and the Lahore Division 1,694 losses. German casualties from 9-20 March were 10,000 men. Indian army soldiers won many Victoria Cross.

Khudadad Khan (129 Duke of Connought's Own Baluchis), Rfn Gabar SinghNegi, (2nd Battalion 39 Garhwal Rifles), Subedar Mir Dast (55 Coke's Rifles Frontier Force), Naik Darwin Singh Negi (1st Battalion 39 Garhwal Rifles), Lance Dafadar Gobind Singh (2nd LANCERS), and Rifleman Kulbir Thapa (2nd Battalion 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles) are few of them.

(iv) Role in Gallipoli Peninsula

The first Indian troops involved in the initial landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula in April 1915 were the 21st Kohat Mountain Battery and the 26th Jacob's Mountain Battery. On 4 June 1915, the 14th Sikhs comprising 15 British Officers, 14

Indian Officers, and 514 men, moved out to attack and capture Turkish trenches. The 14th Sikhs won glory in this advance and several soldiers won the Indian distinguished Service Medal. The performance of the 14th Sikhs in the assault of Koja Chaman Tepe, which they failed to reach, was described by General Birdwood as "A feat which is without parallel". Though no decisive result was obtained and the Allies had no substantial gains from the Gallipoli Campaign, the Indian troops, including the Medical Services, displayed great bravery and courage in the rest of the operations on the Peninsula and several were granted the Indian Order of Merit.

(v)   Indian Army in Mesopotamia

The largest Indian Army force to serve abroad was the Indian Expeditionary Force D in Mesopotamia, under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir John Nixon. The Mesopotamian campaign was largely an Indian campaign and saw deployment of the largest Indian Army force abroad. The 16th Infantry Brigade of the 6th (Poona) Division was sent from Bombay for the Mesopotamia Campaign, under General Sir Arthur Barrett, when War was declared with Turkey in November 1914. A series of success followed including the capture of the port of Fao, dislodging of the Turks at Sahil; capture of Basra, which was a major step in protecting oilfields and refineries; storming of Shaiba-Barjisiyah; and the submission of Khafajiyah, Amara, and Nasariyah. The campaign experienced a setback at the Battle of Ctesiphon and the Indian troops retreated to Kut-al-Amara, where General Townshend decided to hold the position instead of marching down river towards Basra and thus, began the siege of Kut. Several unsuccessful attempts to lift the siege resulted in the Battle of Sheikh Sa'ad, Battle of Wadi, Battle of Hanna, and the relief attempt by General George Gorringe, usually referred to as the First Battle of Kut. The total casualties during Mesopotamia Campaign amounted to 92,501. Nayak Shamad khan (89 Punjab regiment,), Lance Nayak Lala (41Dogra Regiment) and sepoy Chhata Singh (9 Bhopal Infantry) won prestigious Victoria cross in Mesopotania.

(vi)   Indian Army in Egypt and Palestine

Indian soldiers of the Sirhind Brigade were part of the first troops providing the defence of the Suez Canal. Troops from the Imperial Service Troops, which comprised men from the Armies of the Indian states, were part of the Indian effort in Egypt, alongside the 10th and 11th Indian Division, the Bikaner Camel Corps and three batteries of Mountain Artillery. By 1917, Indian troops were a significant part of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. On 23 September 1918, the 15th Imperial Service Brigade comprising of the Mysore and Jodhpur Lancers undertook one of the most famous cavalry actions in the Great War and recaptured

the city of Haifa in Palestine. One of the lesser-known units of the Indian Army was the Bikaner Camel Corps. formed before the Great War. They later fought in Palestine and some of its personnel became part of the Imperial Camel Corps formed later in the conflict. Rifleman Karan Bahadur Rana (3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles) and Risaldar Badlu Singh 2nd Battalion (14 Murray Jat Lancers (Deccan Horse) won the Victoria cross for their extra ordinatory services at the front of Egypt/Palestine.

(vii)   Indian Army in East Africa

Initial attempts at attacking German East Africa were foiled, until the arrival of the Indian Expeditionary Force B consisting of the 27th (Bangalore) Brigade from the 9th (Secunderabad) Division and an Imperial Service Infantry Brigade, a pioneer battalion, a Mountain Artillery battery and Engineers were sent to Tanganyika with the task of invading German East Africa. The force under the command of Major General Arthur Aitken landed at Tanga on 2-3 November 1914. In the following Battle of Tanga, Aitken's 8,000 men were badly beaten by the 1,000 men under their German commander Paul Von Lettow-Vorbeck. The force re-embarked on 5 November 1914, having suffered 817 casualties and the loss of several hundred rifles, 16 machine guns and 600,000 rounds of ammunition.

Activity   **12.1**

Take a world map and locate the places where the Indian soldiers fought a battle during World War I. Name the countries where the wars were fought.

Intext Questions   **12.1**

1.   How many Indian soldiers won the Victoria Cross in World War I?

2.   How many expeditionary forces were formed for the war?

3.   In which countries did Indians take part in the battles?

4.   From which year to which year did the War take place?

12.3 Indian Army's Participation in World War II

We have learnt that the First World War was fought because countries did not trust each other and wanted to establish their power over others. Something similar happened during the Second World War. Adolf Hitler wanted to establish the German might and power over entire Europe and Russia. Mussolini of Italy joined Hitler and later the Japanese also accepted this idea to form an Axis of power in Asia. That is why we had

two fronts where the war was fought. One was in Europe and Russia and the other in SE Asia. This war lasted from 1939 to 1945 and was called a Global War. This was the war, which witnessed the dropping of the first atomic bomb at Hiroshima and then at Nagasaki by the Americans. At the start of the war in Europe, Japan had already invaded China and captured most major cities of China including Shanghai, Nanking and Wuhan.

The Second World War (Map12.2) is said to have broken out with German aggression on Poland on 1 September 1939. The war was fought between the Allies (Britain, France, Soviet Union, USA and their friends) on the one side and Axis powers (Germany, Italy and Japan) on the other. World War II was a titanic conflict that dwarfed even WW-I in scale and magnitude. Over 30 countries fought in this war and the damage and destruction including deaths was colossal. Let us identify the continents and countries involved in this war. This war can be divided into battles on two Fronts, viz; Western Front (Europe and Africa) and the Eastern Front (SE Asia). Accordingly the countries formed alliances with the Axis Powers consisting of Germany, Italy and Japan and the Allies with balance of Europe, Russia and USA.
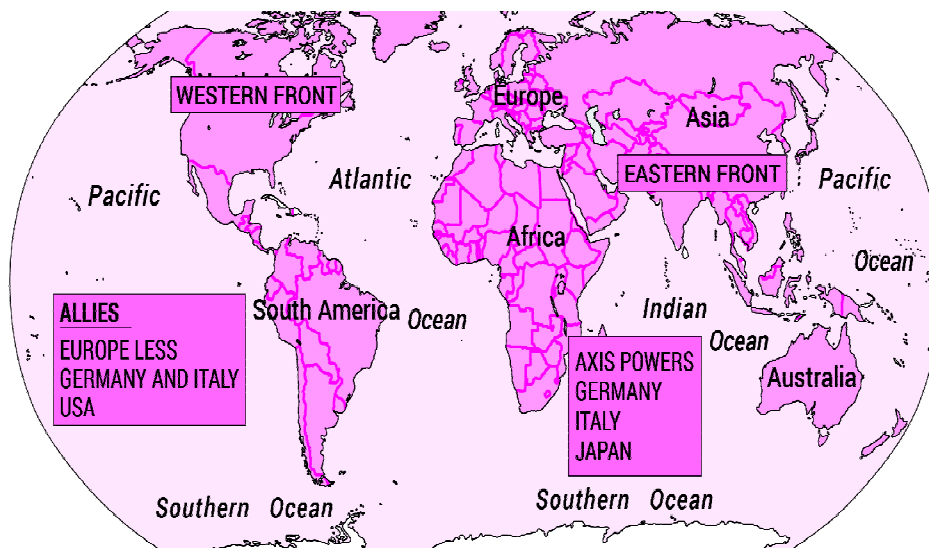
Map 12.2 Map of the World War II 1939-1945 - World Atlas

As we have seen in WW I, Great Britain became an automatic ally and got involved in the war. Therefore, Indian troops, which had contributed tremendous to success in the previous war, became a natural choice because of their courage, loyalty and discipline. Indian army by then had earned the privilege of being a very reliable and much needed force for any war. Let us see how and where did all the Indian soldiers fight this time.

But before that you must understand some words used in military to describe wars and battles. What is a Theatre of Operation? In the context of military it signifies an area where war is fought. In ancient times there was a chosen battleground to fight. As forces became large and countries got involved, the capture of large areas required separate planning and coordination. The term Theatre of Operation was coined to signify specific areas where battles will be fought in order to achieve the desired aims.

Indian army was deployed for war in Europe, Africa, Middle East and SE Asia. The war happened in three continents. In SE Asia they fought against the Japanese, In Ethiopia against the Italians, in Tunisia, Libya and Egypt against both the Italians and the Germans, and in Italy against the Germans.

12.3.1 Eastern Theatre

Having planned the operations in detail and mustered adequate forces, the Japanese offensive commenced on 8 December 1941, by a simultaneous air and naval bombardment of Hong Kong (from mainland China) and Malaya peninsula (from Thailand), along with the attack on Pearl Harbor a day prior. The Allies were deceived into believing the direction of attack and were surprised when the attacks took place. The Japanese quickly captured parts of Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Burma. They had reached Manipur, Mizoram and Imphal. It is here that Indian troops halted the advance of japanese by theirs sheer grit and determination and turned the course of the war.

In Malaya, the Allied troops fought to stop the offensive by occupying successive delaying positions based on rivers, road communications, towns and villages, but were by-passed by the Japanese Forces, who adopted the tactics of infiltration (moving inside enemy territory quietly in small groups of men), encirclement (surrounding enemy from attacking from unexpected directions), establishing road blocks for cutting routes of withdrawal and launched multi-directional attacks, often through thick jungles, swamps and rubber plantations.

Fighting was severe from both sides, casualties heavy, but Japanese troops pressed their attacks fiercely, especially at night. The British under Field Marshal Slim started an offensive to drive the Japanese back. Five Divisions of Indian Army took part in the operations in the Arakans (Burma).

The US Air Force provided air support as well as Special Forces. The attacks were very fierce and there were numerous casualties on both sides. Indians won 18 Victoria Cross and many other awards for their bravery. The Indian army was well trained now to fight in the jungles and used the same tactics of the Japanese to infiltrate and hit the enemy from the rear. The well-planned and brave actions made the Japanese to surrender, thus ending the war in this part of the globe.

Among the battles fought against the Japanese, the Battle of Kohima (present day Nagaland) and Imphal (Manipur) are considered the fiercest battles in modern history. "The Japanese regard the battle of Imphal to be their greatest defeat ever," said Robert Lyman, author of "Japan's Last Bid for Victory: The Invasion of India 1944." "And it gave Indian soldiers a belief in their own martial ability and showed that they could fight as well or better than anyone else."

Field Marshal Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from 1942, asserted that the British "couldn't have come through both wars (World War I and II) if they hadn't had the Indian Army."

12.3.2 Western Theatre

Let us shift attention to Africa where the Allies were fighting the Germans and Italians. Indian troops were shifted from Asia to Africa where some of the most remarkable battles were fought.

(i)   In Africa, the Italians and Germans had established bases in East Africa (Somalia, Eritrea, Abyssinia) and North Africa (Libya, Tunisia etc). These bases threatened the sea routes of merchant ships and would seriously affect trade and commerce of European nations. Hence, capture of these countries became a necessity. As part of Allied forces, three Infantry Divisions were deployed to fight and defeat the Axis powers of Germany and Italy. Battles were fought in the Saharan deserts, Egypt, Sudan and Somaliland.

(ii)   Iraq and Persia were the next areas of battle where the oil fields were to be protected against Germans. The Germans at that time were advancing into Russia. Indian army captured oil fields at Basra, Abadan. After the surrender of Iraq and Iran, the Indian forces were deployed in Iraq for internal security duties. The Allies did not want the Germans to control Syria and Lebanon. These two countries would also control the vital sea link of Suez Canal. Therefore, they launched an offensive to take control of these two countries. This attack was very successful and Syria and Lebanon were quickly captured.

(iii)   In Europe, the Germans had taken control of France, Poland, Hungary and were in the process to capture, Greece and Cyprus. By this action they would create a link between Africa-Europe and Iraq. Indian army took part in the capture of Italy in October 1943, and later of Greece in 1944.

INDIAN ARMY VICTORIA CROSS WINNERS IN WORLD WAR II

WWII - East Africa 1941			
Rank	First Name	Last Name	Regiment
2nd Lieutenant	Premindra Singh	BHAGAT	Royal Bombay Sappers & Miners 4th Bn (Outram's),
Jamadar	Richpal	RAM	6th Rajputana Rifles

Module - III

Military History of the Colonial Era

Note

WWII - North Africa 1943			
Rank	First Name	Last Name	Regiment
Coy Havildar Major	Chhelu	RAM	4th Bn (Outram's), 6th Rajputana Rifles
			1st Bn, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles
Subadar	Lalbahadur	THAPA	(The Sirmoor Rifles)
WWII - Burma 1943 - 1945			
Rank	First Name	Last Name	Regiment
Sepoy	Fazal	DIN	7th Bn, 10th Baluchi Regiment 2nd Bn, 5th Royal Gurkha
Havildar	Gaje	GHALE	Rifles (FF) 3rd Bn, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles
Rifleman	Bhanbhagta	GURUNG	(The Sirmoor Rifles)
Rifleman	Lachhiman	GURUNG	4th Bn, 8th Gurkha Rifles
Jamadar	Abdul	HAFIZ	3rd Bn, 9th Jat Regiment
Lieutenant	Karamjeet	JUDGE	4th Bn, 15th Punjab Regiment
Rifleman	Ganju	LAMA	1st Bn, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles
Rifleman	Tulbahadur	PUN	3rd Bn, 6th Gurkha Rifles
Rifleman	Agansing	RAI	2nd Bn, 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles
Sepoy	Bhandari	RAM	16th Bn, 10th Baluchi Regiment
Lance Naik	Sher	SHAH	7th Bn, 16th Punjab Regiment
Naik George's	Gian	SINGH	4th Bn, 15th Punjab Regiment 1st Bn (King Own) (Ferozepore Sikhs),

Note

Lance Naik	Nand	SINGH	11th Sikh Regiment
Lance Havildar	Parkash	SINGH	5th Bn, 8th Punjab Regiment
Jamadar	Prakash	SINGH	14th Bn, 13th Frontier Force Rifles
Jamadar	Ram Sarup	SINGH	2nd Bn, 1st Punjab Regiment 33 Bty, 30 Mountain Regiment,
Havildar	Umrao	SINGH	Indian Artillery
Jamadar	Netrabahadur	THAPA	2nd Bn, 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles
WWII - Italy 1944 - 1945			
Rank	First Name	Last Name	Regiment
Naik	Yeshwant	GHADGE	3rd Bn, 5th Mahratta Light Infantry
Rifleman	Thaman	GURUNG	1st Bn, 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles 6th Royal Bn (Scinde) 13th
Sepoy	Al	HAIDER	Frontier Force Rifles
Sepoy	Namdeo	JADHAV	1st Bn, 5th Mahratta Light Infantry
Sepoy	Kamal	RAM	3rd Bn, 8th Punjab Regiment
Rifleman	Sherbahadur	THAPA	1st Bn, 9th Gurkha Rifles

Intext Questions **12.2**

- The Second World War was fought from _____ to _____.

- The two Theatres of war were, _____ and _____.

- _____ number of Indians were awarded Victoria cross in WW II.

Module - III

Military History of the Colonial Era

Note

What you have learnt

- In both World Wars Indian army from all parts of the country was involved and they were trained and practiced the art of fighting in major conflicts

- Indian army fought bravely along with allied forces at both the western and eastern fronts

- The British who gave them various medals and honors for their services recognized the bravery of Indian soldiers.

- In view of the participation in the world war, Indian army had the experience of fighting modern warfare

- India contributed to the war effort of Britain not only by sending troops but also money and material

- In the Second World War II also Indian army took active role along with British side

- The war was fought between the allied troops of Britain, France, Soviet Union on one side and Axis powers comprising of Germany, Italy and Japan on the other side.

- The Second World War was also fought in all theatres and Indian army was utilized in all places

Terminal Exercises

1. Write a brief story on why World War I was fought?

2. State any two reasons why WW II to was fought?

3. Write short notes on following battles: Battle of Ypres, Battle of Neuve Chapelle.

4. Write short notes on Western theatre and Eastern theatre in World War II.

Answers to Intext Questions

12.1

(i) 11 Victoria Cross

(ii) 7

(iii) France, Persian Gulf and Egypt

(iv) 1914-1918

12.2

(i)   1939 to 1945

(ii)   Western and Eastern theatres.

(iii) 28

Note