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IMPORTANCE OF MILITARY STUDIES

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Military Studies is also known by various names like defence and strategic studies, military science, war and national security studies, war and strategic studies etc. Military Studies is currently taught only in a handful of colleges / universities in India. This raises two questions. One, what is the importance of Military studies? Two, why should you as young students study this subject? As you would have studied in history mankind always suffered from wars but never gave up the need to fight wars. In the modern world, the need to wage wars has changed and the methods of fighting too have changed.

The importance of having strong armed forces and the need to protect the people against various threats is a constant feature of our life. Knowledge of military security, how armed forces are organised to fight a war and what is the art of warfare are questions, which get answered by studying military studies. By learning about the military, the Government and the armed forces the people become more awakened and can handle situations better. The military study helps the leaders to understand the importance of Armed Forces in defending our motherland.



Objectives

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

- explain the meaning and importance of military studies;
- describe the curriculum of military studies for soldiers and
- emphasise the need for studying military studies.

1. 1 Introduction to Military Studies

Military studies from ancient times, deals with all subjects pertaining to the military and how soldiers and kings are trained in the art of fighting. It can be defined as the study

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of **military organisations**, **analysis of security threats** to a country, the **art of warfare** and the method of using the armed forces in the defence of the nation. Let us understand the meaning of each of these words used in the definition.

- (a) **Study of Military Organisation** - Ancient armies started with foot soldiers and later went on to create the Chaturangabala force consisting of chariots, elephants, cavalry and infantry. Our ancient gurus thought about this organisation of the army. They taught this subject and the soldiers learnt to use the horses, elephants and weapons. Study of military organisations commenced from ancient times and continues even today.
- (b) **National Security** - Any kingdom or nation faces enemies, threats from environment, threats from natural calamities etc. It is important to understand the type of threats and methods to overcome the threat. Therefore, an analysis of national security will tell us about how big the army should be and how should it be organised to fight against all identified threats.
- (c) **Art of Warfare** - Warfare is defined as the activity of fighting between two armies. When two nations fight they employ different strategies and tactics to win the battle. Armies have to be trained to use different strategies and tactics against enemy forces to win. Therefore this subject is important for soldiers and officers to learn the tactics and strategies used in battle.

1.2 Curriculum for Military Studies

After the definition of military studies let us look at the subjects that are included in the curriculum for military studies. The subjects that would be taught include the following:-

- i) **Skill at arms** - Soldiers were taught the use of personal weapons and made to practice daily, to become an expert in handling the weapons. Different weapons were used by the ancient armies in which training was required. These were different types of Gadas, varioys types of weapons used by Central Tribes and weapons of ancient South Indian armies.
- ii) **Skill of using bow and arrow** - One of the major skills required for the soldiers during that period, was to learn the use of 'Bow and Arrow' during battles.

Other skills a solider needed were horsemanship and fighting with enemies on horseback during battles.

1.2.1 Important Aspects in Military Studies

- i) **Terrain** - Study of terrain where the battle will be fought. This subject helps in making defences, forts (in olden times) and creating obstacles for the enemy.
- ii) **Tactics** - Tactics is the art or plan of deploying army units to maneuver to a position of advantage in a battle. Different tactics have to be thought over against different types of enemies and different terrain (fighting in mountains will be



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- different from fighting in deserts) etc.
- iii) **Maps and Astronomy** - These are required for navigating and moving from one place to another. In ancient times there were no maps and armies used directions, movement of sun and stars to march from one place to another.
 - (iv) **Leadership** - Military leadership is an art a creative activity based on character, ability and mental power. It is one of the most important factor in war fighting.
 - (v) **Logistics** - The armies have to be equipped and supplied essential items during a battle. Logistics becomes important to win a battle.

1.2.2 Ethics of war Fighting

Since olden times India always fought a just war - 'Dharam Yudha. It means, the king fought a war only when it was required for the welfare of the kingdom. Similarly, the warrior or soldier had a code of conduct. Being disciplined was the first code. Some of the warrior codes or laws that were followed by ancient armies in India were:-

- 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.



Intext Questions

1.1

1. Explain the meaning of Military Studies.
2. What is meant by art of warfare?
3. Name any three subjects taught in military studies.

1.3 Why should we Study Military Studies?

Military studies should be taught to all soldiers and officers who are part of the armed forces of a country. There is no doubt in this. Where if we say that soldiers must study this subject, the reason why they should be studying it must be understood well. Having seen the curriculum in the previous paragraph of this lesson, the reasons all soldiers to study it; are as follows:-

- A soldier has to be highly professional and proficient in the use of weapons at all times. This involves learning about the weapon and continuously practicing with it.
- Armies of a nation have to be prepared for war at all the times. Therefore to be ready to fight at any time armies have to be trained well.

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- A good army is one that can plan its strategy and tactics well and execute it in the battle. Study of Art of Warfare is therefore very important.
- A soldier who is taught and trained well in fighting remains happy. His morale is high and he goes to battle very confidently.
- In a democracy, the political leaders direct the armed forces to prepare and go to war. The ministers, the political hierarchy, the bureaucrat who assist the government must also learn about military. They decide on how the army should be organized, direct the army to fight when required, plan and execute national security. The government is responsible for the defence of the country and the armed forces are means to achieve national security.

1.3.1 Army

An army is judged by seeing how well its soldiers are trained. Soldiers who are well trained always perform well. It gives them added confidence in doing their task. In ancient times and even now, a well-trained regular army enjoy the confidence to win battles when required.



What You Have Learnt

- Military Studies is the study of military science, war and national security studies, war and strategic studies. Armed forces do require this study to be able to protect the people against various threats - war, natural calamities and disasters. Art of warfare is to handle the war or war like situations. Art of warfare is to be able to employ different tactics and strategies to win the war.
- Curriculum for Military Studies includes skill at arms, skill at using bow and arrows, skill to use horses in war and to be able to fight the enemies on the horse back.
- Military Studies have important aspects like : Terrain, Tactics, Maps and Astronomy, Military Leadership, Logistics. Soldiers do have a code of conduct during war. It is against ethics of war to kill old aged people, women and children also the disabled soldiers and soldiers who have surrendered. Military Studies is need to have an organised and disciplined armed force. It must to proficient in using different weapons and ready at all times to protect the people and fight a war confidently.



Terminal Exercises

1. Differentiate between 'Tactics' and 'Strategy' ?
2. Who all should study Military Studies ?

3. Why is study of Terrain important to win a battle?

Answers to Intext Questions

1.1

1. Military studies can be defined as the study of military organisations, analysis of security threats to a country, the art of warfare and the method of using the armed forces in the service of the nation.
2. Warfare is defined as the activity of fighting between two enemies. The tactics and strategy used in battle constitutes art of warfare.
3. The study of Terrain over which battle will be fought is important to formulate strategy, tactics and logistics. This will help in overcoming the enemy and winning the battle.



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