

Chapter 4 INDIAN ARMY

The Indian army is the oldest amongst the three armed forces. It has very rich and ancient heritage of more than 2000 years, from the times of Chandragupta Maurya. The foundation of the present Indian Army was inherited from the British Indian Army. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose led the Indian National Army (INA) during the World War 2, to fight for India's independence from British Rule. Women also formed part of the INA. Captain Laxmi Swaminathan headed the women's wing.



Role of the Indian Army

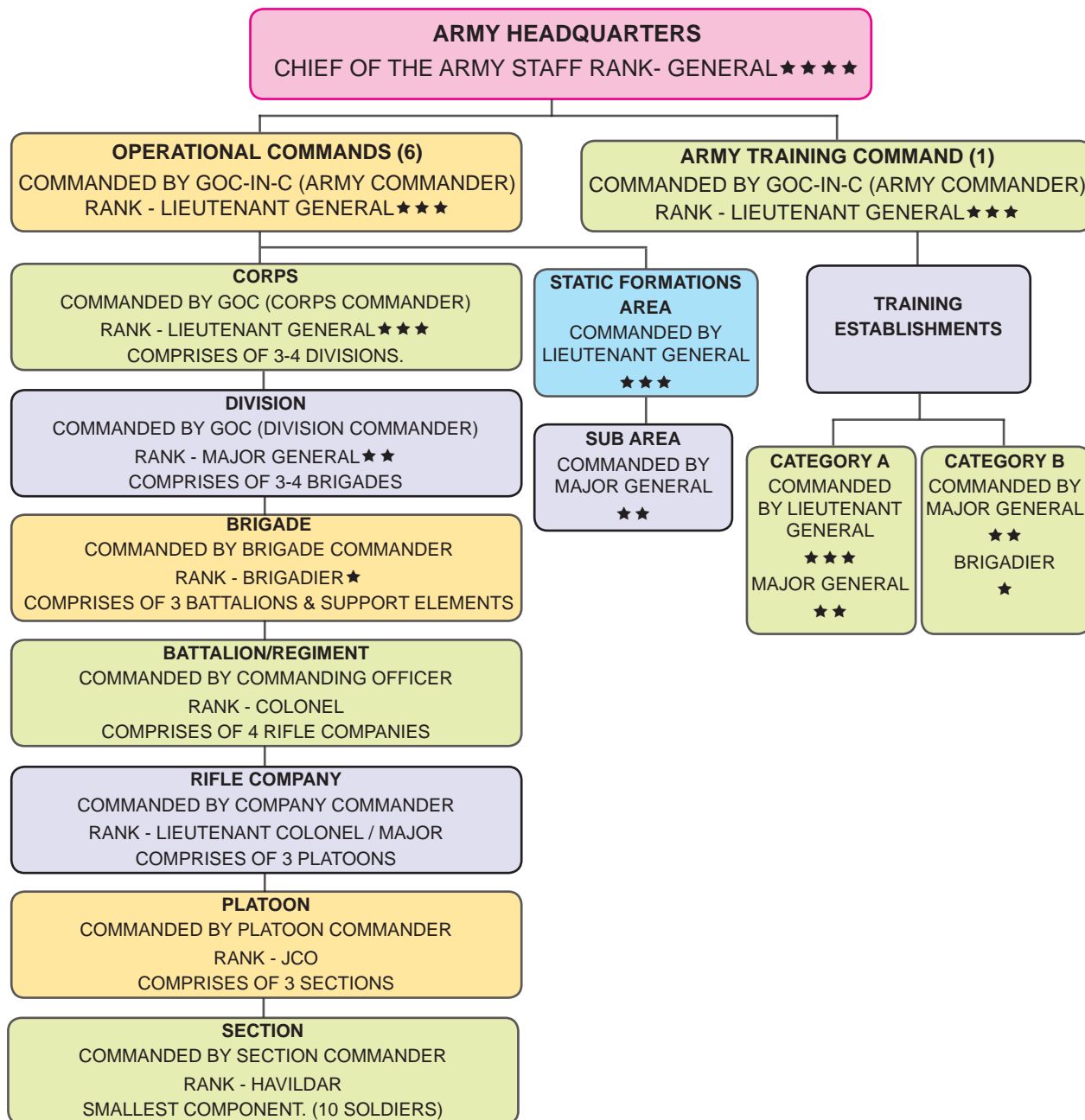
The role of the Indian Army is to safeguard National Interests from External Aggression and Internal Subversion, towards this it has to be ready to perform the following tasks:-

- Go to war to defeat an External Aggression.
- Strengthen the Internal Security Management to defeat Internal Threats.
- Project force wherever and whenever called upon to safeguard the nation's interests.
- To support the Peace Keeping Operations or Military Assistance to friendly foreign countries.
- Render Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Relief and Aid to Civil Authorities.



Command & Control of the Army

The Indian army is spread over six Operational Commands based on geography and the perceived security threats. The Commands are further divided into two to three Corps. The Corps are further divided into two to four Divisions. The Divisions are made up of three to four brigades. Each Brigade has three to four Battalions or Regiments under it. A battalion is further sub divided into Companies, Platoons and Sections, with the Section comprising 10 soldiers being the smallest entity.



Areas of responsibility of geographical commands :

1) **Northern Command:**

Northern Command is headquartered in Udhampur. It is responsible for operations in Jammu and Kashmir against China in the East and Pakistan in the West.

2) **Western Command:**

Western Command is headquartered in Chandigarh. It is responsible for operations in Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh against China in the East and Pakistan in the West.

3) **South Western Command:**

South Western Command is headquartered in Jaipur. It is responsible for operations in North and Central Rajasthan and Haryana.

4) **Southern Command:**

Southern Command is headquartered in Pune. It is responsible for operations in South Rajasthan and Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, TamilNadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

5) **Central Command:**

Central Command is headquartered in Lucknow. It is responsible for operations in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. Uttarakhand against China in the North, as also security along the Indo - Nepal Border with UP and Bihar.

6) **Eastern Command:**

Eastern Command is headquartered in Kolkata. It is responsible for operations in Sikkim, Bhutan, and Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram and also against China and security of Indo – Nepal, Myanmar and Bangladesh borders

7) **Training Command:**

In addition to the above there is also an Army Training Command to oversee the training of the army.

Organisation and Composition of the Army

The various organizations and units which go to make up the army are classified under two major heads “Combat Arms” and “Logistic Support Services”.

A) Combat Arms



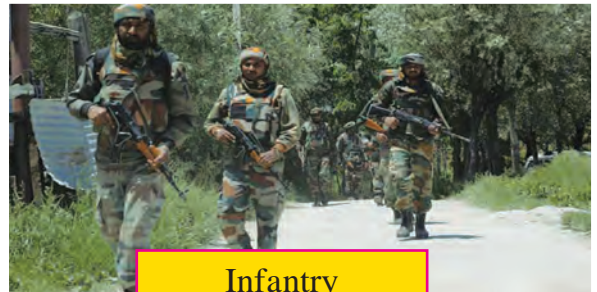
Armoured Corps



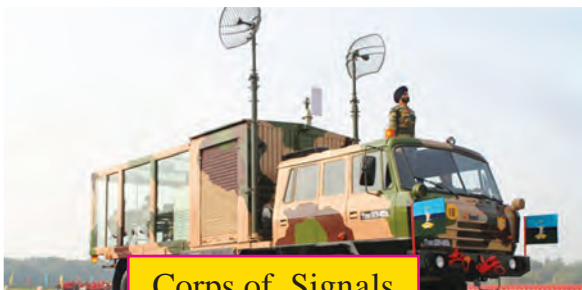
Artillery



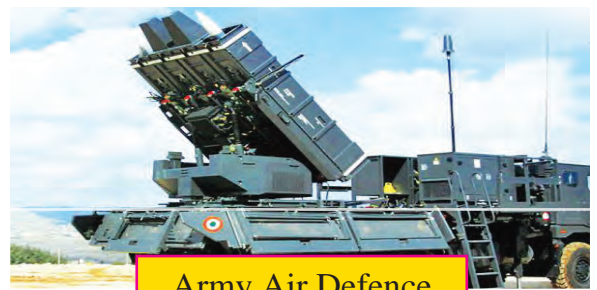
Engineers



Infantry



Corps of Signals



Army Air Defence



Army Aviation



Army Intelligence Corps

B) Logistic Support Services



Army Service Corps (ASC)
Ration, Transportation and
Petroleum products.



Electronics and Mechanical Engineers Corps
(EME)
Repairs and recovery of weapons and equipment.



Army Dental Corps (ADC)
Dental care and treatment.



Remount and Veterinary Corps (RVC)
Medical care of Army Dogs, Horses
and Mules.



Judge Advocate Branch(JAG)
Legal support.



Army Ordnance Corps(AOC)
Armament, ammunition, vehicles,
equipment and clothing.



Army Medical Corps (AMC)
Medical care and treatment.



Army Education Corps (AEC)
Human resource development.



Military Police (MP)
Traffic control and discipline.



Pioneers
Military labour in forward war zone.

Activities

1. Match the pictures given below with the relevant combat arm of the Army:

Infantry.



A



Artillery.



B



Corps of Engineers.



C



Army Air Defence.



D



Armoured Corps.



E



Corps of Signals.



F



2. Make a chart showing out the Ranks insignia for the Indian Army and stick it in the class.

