

ISA Activity: Fun with Flags

Topic: Significance of Indian Defence Ensigns

Class: X

National Flag Adoption Day is celebrated every year on the **22nd July** to make the people aware about the Indian Flag and its glorious history.

Indian Defence Forces are the military forces of the Republic of India. It consists of three professional uniformed services: the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force.

Let us understand the Common Facts present on all three flags

Indian National flag

1. **Saffron** stands for renunciation, impartiality, courage and sacrifice.
2. **White** symbolizes truth, peace and purity.
3. **Green** represents prosperity, vibrance and life.
4. **The Ashok Chakra** (wheel) represents the righteousness, progress and perpetuity. The 24 spokes of the wheel represent the 24 hours of a day

National Emblem (on Army & Navy Ensigns) is an adaptation of the Lion Capital of Ashoka the Great, an Indian emperor of the Maurya Dynasty at Sarnath, near Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

- The 4 lions are considered to be symbols of power, courage and victory.
- The circular abacus is girded by four smaller animals, considered guardians of the four directions:
 - a. The lion of the north,
 - b. The elephant of the east,
 - c. The horse of the south and
 - d. The bull of the west.
- The abacus rests on a lotus in full bloom, exemplifying the fountainhead of life and creative inspiration.
- The motto 'Satyameva Jayate' inscribed below the emblem in Devanagari script means 'truth alone triumphs'. And this signifies the power, courage and confidence of our soldiers in all the directions like a lion.

Indian Army



1. Indian Army was founded on 1 April 1895.
2. Our Motto is: **सेवा परमो धर्म** (Service before Self).
3. Our Chief of the Army Staff is **Army General Bipin Rawat**, Honoured with Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and many other prestigious awards and decorations.
4. Our Indian army Flag is a red field with the flag of India in the canton, and the Army badge in the fly.
5. Indian army flag consists of:
 - **Indian National Flag:** The national flag is placed at canton i.e. at the top hoist corner of the flag. It occupies quarter area of the flag's area. The national flag here depicts that this particular flag belongs to this nation.
 - **Logo of Indian Army:** The logo consists of crossed swords and national Emblem. Here this combination depicts the glory and pride of the country.
 - **Two crossed swords:** If two crossed swords pointing down means the fight is over. But here two crossed swords are pointing up which internationally depicts readiness to fight.
 - **Red Background:** It depicts the valour and sacrifices made by our soldiers. The Colour signifies a fight to death.

Indian Airforce



1. Indian Airforce was founded on 8th Oct 1932.
2. Our Motto is: **नभः स्पृशं दीप्तम्** (*Touch the sky with glory*).
3. Our Chief of the Air Staff is **Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa**, Honoured with Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Yudh Seva Medal and many other prestigious awards and decorations.
4. Our Indian Airforce Flag is a sky-blue ensign with the flag of India in the canton, and the Air Force roundel in the fly.
5. Indian Airforce flag consists of:
 - **Indian National Flag:** The national flag is placed at canton i.e. at the top hoist corner of the flag. It occupies quarter area of the flag's area. The national flag here depicts that this particular flag belongs to this nation.
 - **Roundel:** A roundel is a circular disc used as a symbol. The term is internationally used to refer to a type of national insignia used on military aircraft, generally circular in shape and usually comprising concentric rings of different colours (preferably colours of the Nation's Flag). The Indian Air Force roundel consists of the colours of the National Flag i.e. saffron, white and green in the centre.
 - **Blue Background:** Blue colours used are tones of the colour azure. Azure is the purest tone of Cyan blue colour, identified as being the colour of the sky on a clear day.

Indian Navy



1. Indian Navy was founded on 5 September 1612.
2. Our Motto is: शं नो वरुणः (*May the Lord of the Water, Varuna, be auspicious unto us.*)
3. Our Chief of the Naval Staff is **Admiral Karambir Singh**, Honoured with Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and many other prestigious awards and decorations.
4. Our Indian Navy Flag is a white ensign, with a horizontal red stripe and a vertical red stripe intersecting at the centre of the flag. The emblem of India superimposed on the intersection, and the national flag in the upper canton next to the staff.
5. Indian navy flag consists of:
 - **Indian National Flag:** The national flag is placed at canton i.e. at the top hoist corner of the flag. The national flag here depicts that this particular flag belongs to this nation.
 - **Red Cross on White Background:** Also Known as **Cross of Saint George** is the first international recognised Maritime flag. The **Cross of Saint George** is a red cross on a white background, which from the Late Middle Ages became associated with Saint George, a military crusader. During the Crusades, the soldiers would wear plain white tunics, thus the birth of a white background. The cross was used to represent the martyred of the battle.
 - **National Emblem:** Emblem of India in the intersection of the cross, with the motto 'Satyameva Jayate' inscribed below the emblem in Devanagari script means 'truth alone triumphs'.

Protocol for Saluting

The salute is the highest form of respect that the Armed Forces can display. A salute is a gesture of respect and trust among soldiers which encourages a pride in their ever-shining uniforms while at the same time elevates them in their own eyes by reminding them all of that is implied by the profession and its traditions of chivalry and courtesy.

1. Indian Army - Open palm facing the person in front

In Indian Army, a salute is executed by an open palm gesture with the weapon hand, with fingers and thumb together and the middle finger almost touching the hatband or the eyebrow. It not only establishes trust among the personnel but also proves that the person saluting has no bad intentions and no weapons hidden up anywhere.

2. Indian Navy - Open palm facing the ground

In Indian Navy, a salute is executed with the palm facing the ground at a 90° angle to the forehead. Basically, the reason behind this is to hide the hands of sailors that get dirty due to oil dirt or grease stains while working on the ship.

3. Indian Air Force - Open palm at a 45° angle to the ground

In Indian Air force, a salute involves the palm at a 45° angle to the ground and the right arm being sharply raised from the front by the shortest possible way. It signifies the rise of aircraft to sky, as the Motto of the air force says "Touch the Sky with Glory".