

INTRODUCTION

When a war is declared by a person in authority to make decisions for the nation, it means the armed forces are officially sent to protect the nation's border or keep the enemies out of its reach. The causes can be many, land or religious conflicts, nationalism, power competition, etc. The result can be either a defeat or a victory. The nation might rejoice in victory, but the silent defeat behind every victory remains unseen and unknown on both sides. The nations go through endless pain, loss of lives and territory and the agony of those affected are immense. The decreasing resources due to the war weaken the internal systems. It takes years to rebuild or overcome the trauma. If we think logically or in larger interest, then any war-like situation can be avoided with negotiations and talks. War should be the last option.

It's better to step ahead and think whether war is a necessary solution for establishing supremacy or it's a way to threaten those weaker and unprepared for it. Everyone should weigh the positive and the negative impacts of a war before executing the orders. In this lesson we will read why a war happens and its impact. We begin the lesson with the story of Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee, his indomitable spirit and his sacrifice for the motherland. He had been one of the bravest, yet an unsung war hero.

16.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After reading this lesson, you will be able to:

- understand the painful impact of a war.
- think and sensitize before being aggressive.
- take pride of being born in Bharat.
- understand the decision making for the larger interest and nation first.
- develop empathy and sensitivity in a dire crisis.
- identify the role of an army in the nation building.
- raise voice against whatever is not justified.
- learn new words.

- write short paragraphs

16.2 SECTION I

In 1962, the Indo-China war had unfolded the stories of immense bravery within the Indian armed forces. When the Indian civilians were celebrating the festival of lights in 1962, our brave heroes were fighting to protect us all. As we slept peacefully, the brave army men silently sacrificed their lives. India and China fought over the disputed territories in the Himalayan region. The Indian army faced the threatening task of defending the nation's border against an enemy that was stronger and outnumbered them. The Indian army though caught off-guard, firmly confronted the enemy. Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee was one of the examples of bravery personified and a man who never gave up no matter how terrible the situation was. Brigadier Rathee is one of the guiding spirits to encourage millions to join the Armed Forces.

Whenever the name Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee is heard, a great surge of courage to think about the world differently takes over. He was a man with endurance under difficult conditions, quick decision-making ability in crisis, leadership qualities, disciplined to the core, courage to face the enemy in direst situations and many more. He was born in a Jat family in Village Sankhol, Haryana.

Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee joined the 4 Rajputana Rifles as a rifleman in October 1934 at the age of 18 and he quickly rose to the rank of a Havaldar. Soon he was promoted to the rank of a Jemadar (equivalent to a Captain in the past), out of turn, in December 1940. He continued as Intelligence Jemadar of the unit.

In 1941 when the Battalion was in Abyssinia, he helped in numerous duties and displayed great determination and courage. During the withdrawal of the unit from Keren in March 1941, the Battalion was guided by him in a meticulous and capable manner, for which he was awarded the Indian Order of Merit (IOM). While in Syria during the encirclement or hold by the French, on 19 June 1941, he took British and French Officers to the Syrian Forces Headquarters. As a result, the reinforcement sent from the Headquarters prevented the Battalion from being captured. He was awarded the India Distinguished Service Medal (IDSM) and Croix-de-Guerre, a French honour, for his exemplary courage and devotion to duty. Later, he was also awarded the King's Commission. In 1941, he was selected for a commission and passed out from Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.

In 1962, the 46-year-old Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee was selected on a brief notice to take over the command of 62 Infantry Brigade at Se La on 20 October, 1962 early morning. It was the time when the China's Liberation Army attacked India at Aksai Chin area in Ladakh and across the McMahon Line in North East Frontier Agency, now known as Arunachal Pradesh.

NEFA was a political division made in British India and later it was the Republic of India until 1972. India declared it a state, Arunachal Pradesh in 1987. It has been a disputed area between India and China since 1962. It shares the western border with Bhutan and eastern border with Myanmar. In the north it shares a disputed 1,129 km with China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on the McMahon Line.

The Brigade under Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee's leadership held up the advance of their enemies for three days. He was sure to push back the enemies with his brigade, but the orders from Army Headquarters added to confusion. The Army was clueless as they had no maps, proper clothes and shoes to walk on heavily snow-covered battle ground. Not to forget that the war was fought on ground, no Air-Force fighters were included. The Chinese had captured the road between Se La and Bomdi La, a difficult route. Yet Brigadier Rathee stood firm at Se La pass. By 16 November, the stock left for survival had only 12 days to go. But on 17 November the Major General lost his nerve and ordered the withdrawal of the troops from Se La. Though arrangements were made to remove Brigadier and his brigade from the place, yet he refused to leave the post. He preferred to fight and die with his soldiers. But he was compelled to withdraw with his brigade. Somewhere, inside his hope to take on the Chinese army was stopped as he also got the threat of being court-martialed.

Not only was Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee's hope to face the Chinese army dashed to the ground, but Brigadier Rathee and his brigade was also treacherously ambushed or trapped and killed by the Chinese on 27 November, 1962. He was killed while in action fighting for the Indian Army in the NEFA region. He gave a tough fight to the Chinese army despite being cut-off from his division Headquarter at Bomdi La. It happened two days after the ceasefire, which was an unethical and an act of cowardice of the Chinese soldiers. The Chinese troop killed the brigade commander Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee, three officers and nine other soldiers. Others were either wounded or captured. The Brigadier's body was preserved in Phudung by local Monpas. Later, his body was cremated by the army officers and his eldest son performed the last rites. Unfortunately, no bravery award was awarded to him posthumously. But the story of his bravery and firmness is narrated even today.

After his martyrdom, Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Indian Prime Minister, went to Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee's village along with then Chief Minister of Punjab and senior army officers to pay homage to the departed martyr and convey their condolences. Later on the first death anniversary, Indira Gandhi also met his family in the village.

16.2.1 Let Us Understand the Text

The Indo-China War 1962, unveils the deceitful intention of the Chinese army. They rejected the McMahon Line of control on the Indo-China border in NEFA, now Arunachal Pradesh and declared war to grab Indian Territory. Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee was a Jat hero born in Village Sankhol, Haryana. In 1962, the 46 year old Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee was selected on a brief notice to take over the command of 62 Infantry Brigade at Se La on 20 October, 1962 early morning. He along with his battalion kept the Chinese army at safe distance, but he was called back from the post. He was sure to push back the enemies with his brigade, but the orders from Army Headquarters added to confusion. On the way two days after the ceasefire, the Brigadier and his brigade was trapped and killed and a few captured.

Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee's bravery and determination was deep and profound. His family in Village Sankhol was visited by the then Prime Minister and Chief Minister for condolence, but he wasn't awarded any bravery award posthumously. Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee despite his unwavering devotion and love for the nation remains an unsung hero.

HELP WAR VICTIMS

- Be Compassionate and Kind.
- Provide Emotional Support.
- Help To Overcome the Trauma.
- Groom Them to Earn Their Bread.
- Help To Revive Their Shattered Lives.

GLOSSARY

- a. *Immense*: huge, vast
- b. *Surge*: rush, flow
- c. *Meticulous*: careful, particular
- d. *Ambushed*: trapped

- e. *Ceasefire*: break in fight
- f. *Cowardice*: weakness, fear
- g. *Condolence*: sympathy, concern
- h. *Deceitful*: dishonest, cheating
- i. *McMahon Line*: The McMahon line is the boundary between Tibet and British India as agreed in the maps.
- j. *Posthumously*: after the death

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 16.1

- a. What happened in October, 1962?
- b. Who is Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee?
- c. Write two sentences to describe Brigadier Rathee's devotion and dedication.
- d. What is NEFA?
- e. Why was the Army clueless?
- f. Who is an unsung hero? Why?

16.3 SECTION II

Many worthy and brave lives were lost, while the nation shivered in the terrible defeat faced. It was an unforgettable defeat which left the nation pondering. After lots of looking back at the causes that loomed large and needed immediate attention, the most important one was the sudden Chinese invasion for which India was not prepared. The Headquarters had no option other than going ahead with the war, but later lost confidence somewhere down the line and decided to call back the armed forces. Perhaps, the critical decision-making in higher hierarchy or up the ladder lacked the nerve. The pain and shame of the defeat left the nation shaken up for years to come.

Many reasons for the defeat have been confronted gradually. They were perhaps lacking preparedness as the Indian army lacked sufficient training and equipment. They didn't have the proper infrastructure to counter the Chinese forces. There were no bunkers to hide, everything was in open, yet the Indian army fought hard and killed many Chinese men with their resolute firmness to face them till the last breath. Perhaps, to stop the Indian army men from falling in millions, the decision was taken for ceasefire and the army was called back.

Even the terrain or the land was one of the major hindrances. The war took place in the difficult terrain of the Himalayan Mountains. The land was difficult and unfamiliar, the weather was extreme. The Chinese were better accustomed to the weather and had better ways to keep warm and the terrain was familiar to them too. Unlike the Chinese, the Indian army faced serious challenges in logistics, connectivity and communication. Hence, the movement in the harsh conditions added to the weakening of their position.

The other major reason for the defeat was the inadequate intelligence because the Indian army had poor knowledge of the Chinese Armed Forces' training, strength, capabilities and intentions. It led to a miscalculation of the actual Chinese threat and failed to anticipate the Chinese offensive intentions.

To a certain extent, even the political leadership could be one of the reasons. There were too many disagreements and rivalries within the government and military command which led to confusion and ineffective decision-making. The unified strength was missing and couldn't coordinate and control the military operations efficiently.

Undoubtedly the Chinese military superiority was far ahead of the Indian army. The Chinese army had undergone significant modernization under the leadership of Mao Zedong. Their army was better equipped and trained compared to the Indian army. Hence, the Chinese army could exploit India's weaknesses efficiently.

The international factors cannot be ruled out. The United States which had been supporting India was not able to provide the military help expected at that hour of distress. Even the Soviet Union, despite being India's ally, remained neutral. All these left India diplomatically isolated and grappling with the war alone in a cold, rough and unknown terrain.

Though after the defeat in 1962, significant changes took place in India's defence policies, strategic planning and thinking along with military modernization. Later, the Indian army's victory in 1965 and 1971 wars boosted the nation's morale.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF A WAR

- lives lost; families shattered
- loss of national properties
- breakdown in interpersonal relationships

- loss of parents
- violent conflicts leave many devastated
- national boundaries

16.3.1 Let Us Understand the Text

Many lives were lost in this war. After the war, the Indian Government paid attention to the immediate causes of the defeat and actions were taken. The pain and shame of the defeat left the nation shaken up for years to come. Leaders confronted the causes as lack of preparedness, training, equipment, clothing, connectivity, no bunkers and miscalculation of the Chinese strength of armed forces. The land terrain was unknown to them, whereas the Chinese were better than them in all aspects. The Chinese under the leadership of Mao Zedong and his ideology were able to exploit the weakness of the Indian army.

The international factors cannot be ruled out. The United States which had been supporting India was not able to provide the military help expected at that hour of distress. Even the Soviet Union, despite being India's ally, remained neutral. India was left diplomatically isolated and grappling with the war alone in a cold, rough and unknown terrain.

GLOSSARY

- a. *hierarchy*: order of ranking
- b. *confronted*: tackle, deal with, face up to
- c. *inadequate*: insufficient, not enough
- d. *infrastructure*: basic system and services required by a country, like buildings, transport, water supply, etc.
- e. *resolute*: firm, determined, unwavering
- f. *ally*: friend, supporter
- g. *grappling*: struggling, fighting, grabbing, etc.
- h. *strategic*: planned, calculated

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 16.2

- a. Why was the defeat in the 1962 war an unforgettable one?

- b. Why were the armed forces called back?
- c. Mention five reasons for the defeat of the Indian army.
- d. In what ways was the Chinese army better than the Indian army?
- e. What was the miscalculation made by the Indian army?
- f. What was left India diplomatically isolated and grappling?

16.4 SECTION III

China was waiting to catch India on the wrong foot. It happened when they looked into their unpreparedness. A peep into the Chinese intentions exposed their actual purpose of the war. The causes were quite a few which were brewing up secretly. It was a combination of political, territorial and ideological factors.

The border dispute between India and China was one of the long-standing issues. The border demarcation in North East Frontier Agency was drawn by the British colonial government known as Mc Mahon Line in 1914. China disagreed with it. According to China, NEFA belonged to them and India accepted that the Mc Mahon line was the legal and rightful border.

Another major cause was India had granted asylum to the 14th Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet in 1959. This became a political issue and it soured the relationship between both the countries. China considered Tibet an essential and integral part of its territory. They considered the Dalai Lama a separatist, who wanted freedom for Tibet. Therefore, by giving shelter to the Dalai Lama, China felt India was interfering in their internal matters. The Dalai Lama escaped from Tibet as he feared his prosecution by the Chinese government.

China by not accepting the McMahon Line had a long-standing border issue in the NEFA region. In this scenario, the Dalai Lama's presence in India further strained the relationship between both the nations. China wanted to control the border region and Tibet too. But the Dalai Lama's presence in India as a spiritual leader attracted international attention and support for Tibet. Another reason was China's political consideration, as it wanted to establish its power in Asia. Hence, by resisting India's actions, China sent a strong message to other countries in Asia that it would not tolerate any support for Tibetan independence as it would be a challenge to their territorial claims. Till today the restlessness can be felt in the border shared by India and China.

Thus, China wanted to display its military power in the region as they believed their power would gain a quick victory over India in the NEFA region, which they had declared to be Chinese territory. It would also make the neighbouring countries understand their power and stay away. The Chinese revolutionary ideology under their leader was another reason behind the war.

It began with minor border conflicts between India and China in the NEFA region, but in October 1962, the Chinese army caught the Indian army off guard with its full-blown attack and the rest is history for all.

16.4.1 Let Us Understand the Text

In 1962, China was waiting to catch India on the wrong foot and exploit India's unpreparedness. A peep into the Chinese intentions revealed many factors brewing up silently like territorial, political and ideology. The dispute was a long-standing issue. The border demarcation which India accepted, but China did not. India had granted asylum or shelter to the 14th Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet in 1959. This became a political issue and strained the relationship between both the countries. China believed that by providing shelter to the Dalai Lama in India, the government was interfering in the matters of Tibet. China considered Tibet its territory, so the relationship soured between both the countries.

The other reason was China wanted to display their military power in the region and gain a quick victory over India in the NEFA region. The minor conflicts in the border flared up into a full-fledged war and it caught the Indian army off-guard.

GLOSSARY

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- a. *Intention*: purpose, goal
- b. *Ideology*: beliefs, ideas
- c. *Asylum*: refuge, shelter
- d. *Conflict*: disagreement, differences, tension
- e. *Colonial*: royal, imposing

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 16.3

- a. What was the long-standing issue of the Indo-China war in 1962?

- b. Who got an asylum from the Indian government? Why did it damage the relationship between the two nations?
- c. Why did China not accept the Dalai Lama's shelter in India?
- d. Why did the Dalai Lama escape from Tibet?

16.5 SECTION IV

The destruction caused by a war deeply hurt the nation and the people. Therefore, a war can never be a solution for any problem. It is a prolonged and violent conflict of establishing the dominance of one over the other. There isn't any conclusion to such aggression and hunger for territory or resources. Different types of combat are used in a war like ground battle, aerial warfare, naval war or guerrilla warfare. These wars have strong political, economical and social consequences. The deep impact it has on the lives of those involved in the war is incalculable. The emptiness it leaves on the families of the martyrs cannot be measured or filled.

None would agree that a war is necessary. Other than those killed in the war, loss of loved ones make people experience deep sorrow, depression, anxiety and are devastated. It destroys the family, those who return home and those left behind are impacted by the negative effects too. Many go through emotional trauma due to the sudden breakdown in family structure and bring in financial hardships as they are left with no breads winner. At times, it destabilises life as the grieved ones try to collect the pieces of their shattered life.

The war can have other impacts like damage to interpersonal relationships; children are affected by the loss of their parents, strong impact on the future generation, subdued humans, etc. They would need long-term community support, counselling and financial assistance to rebuild their lives.

Other than devastation of human lives, a war damages the national properties, monuments, buildings, schools, brings in political instability, lingering hatred, makes people forcefully evacuate their homes in fear, and life in shelter homes are not happy ones.

A war that has been started with the command from the headquarters is difficult to stop because military operations start immediate movement, it becomes challenging to stop and resolve the disagreement peacefully. Thus, the peaceful measures should be taken before the commands go off.

16.5.1 Let Us Understand the Text

A war causes huge destruction. It hurts the nation and people. War is a prolonged and violent conflict to establish power and dominance. It leaves an incalculable impact on the lives of those involved in the war. The emptiness it leaves on the families of the martyrs cannot be measured or filled. Those who return home and those left behind are impacted by the negative effects too. Many go through emotional trauma due to the sudden loss of their loved ones, experience deep sorrow, depression, anxiety and are devastated.

Children are affected by the loss of their parents, leaving a strong impact on the future generation, subdued humans, etc. They would need long-term community support, counselling and financial assistance to rebuild their lives. A war damages the national properties, monuments, buildings, schools, brings in political instability, lingering hatred, makes people forcefully evacuate their homes in fear, and life in shelter homes are not happy ones. It can never be a solution for any problem. A war once started cannot be stopped, as the process starts rolling immediately with the command.

GLOSSARY

- a. *Prolonged*: long-lasting
- b. *Subdued*: suppressed, controlled
- c. *Lingering*: lasting over a period of time

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 16.4

- a. Who is hurt by the war and why?
- b. What is a war?
- c. How are those who return from a war affected?
- d. How do interpersonal relationships get affected?
- e. What other damages are caused other than human lives?

16.6 SECTION V

Ever since our independence on 15 August 1947 we have felt, observed and seen how the army has helped in nation-building, protecting us from wars and war-like situations and natural calamities, terrorism, peace missions, etc. It's sad to see our brave men killed in a warfield.

None deserves it. They have kept the flag flying high, stood up in times of crisis to help and saved people during the Himalayan Tsunami, 26 December oceanic tsunami, flash floods, earthquakes, terrorist attacks in any state of India. They sang for us and cried with us, keeping our morale high. We have always looked up to them even when a flyover fell down in Delhi just before the Commonwealth Games, but the Indian army built an iron over-bridge overnight. Unbelievable, yet it is true. Their hard-work during Covid-19 has been highly commendable, as they have helped in Border Road Organisation, readying a road or highway in the border and hilly areas. They helped in supplying medicines, oxygen and other medical assistance quickly. Many army hospital doctors and nurses worked 24x7 along with other doctors and nurses to save as many lives as possible. They never failed to reach out at a brief call. All work is done selflessly. They believe in 'Service before self', and for Indians whether it's war or peace, the Indian army is their lifeline.

The Army not only protects the nation from external aggressions, but also maintains peace and security within the nation's borders. Such a strong positive attitude needs immense appreciation. Whether war or peace, they are always at work. The brave and strong hearts of our armed forces melts at the sight of a boy crying for his cat stuck up in a tree or enjoying sailing a paper-boat when sitting beside a pond in the rainy season. Even row the real boat in flood-hit areas to save humans and cattle. It's time to have no or fewer wars and more constructive work across the world.

Our armed forces have proved beyond any doubt, their dedication, ability to pick up any work at the drop of a hat, bear the consequences of others mistakes quietly and yet stand up for all work without grudges. Innumerable times their personal leaves have been cancelled and they were called back to report to their station on emergency duties. They are the nation's pillars of strength and confidence both in war and peace.

The army stands for the country's land, sea and airspace from any foreign invasion. They sacrifice their lives for our secure future. None can deny the army men's role in Disaster Management. They are the first to be called to rescue lives be it a natural calamity, a child stuck in a bore-well, buildings on fire, miners stuck in tunnels, etc. Perhaps celebrating one calendar day for them is not enough. Their selfless devotion needs to be appreciated every day and on every suitable occasion.

The Indian army's history of bravery is inexhaustible. Every day new narratives come up to praise them. There are innumerable heroes like Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee, always ready to lay down their precious lives for the nation. We will fall short if we fail to mention a few from the past decades. The Kargil War Captain Vikram Batra, 13 JAK Rifles, awarded Param Vir Chakra, posthumously. Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav, awarded Param Vir Chakra, posthumously. Lieutenant Balwan Singh, 18 Grenadiers, he has been awarded Maha Vir Chakra. The Indian army's innumerable such tales of bravery have kept inspiring youths to join the army.

We could think about a world without a war, perhaps it would definitely be an idealistic world, where peace, harmony and cooperation will prevail. Nations would work together to solve poverty, inequality, hunger, climate change, etc. Unitedly the nations would become strong and deal with conflicts in a peaceful manner. Countries would reduce the expenditure on military and spend more on nation-building, conflict resolution, cultural exchange, economic stability, humanitarian causes, protect the environment, education, empathy, mental and emotional well-being, social justice, encourage sustainable development, embrace diversity and many more.

Maybe such a dream world is a far-off place in the present time, but it would be worthy to think and try to achieve. At least all can think about reaching out to each other positively, decision-making should be in larger interest and harmonious commitment. None should waver while making a choice between MY and OTHERS interests. There would be food for all, education for all, right to work for all, no voice would be silenced and happiness and freedom would actualise in real meaning and be the supreme power. Stopping war completely would be a complex situation, but an initiative can be agreed upon. The world leaders can promote diplomacy and dialogue and go for peaceful negotiations to resolve conflicts and promote mutual understanding and empathy. Address the root cause of every problem and strengthen international cooperation, talk about arms control agreements and treaties, empower the civil society and protect it, choose and support responsible leaders and encourage peace at all levels. The world today is sitting on a vulnerable edge, so it's time to think about it. The Army not only protects the nation from external aggressions, but also maintains peace and security within the nation's borders. Their selfless devotion needs to be appreciated and applauded.

16.6.1 Let Us Understand the Text

Ever since the independence in 1947, the army has helped in nation building, protecting and rescuing from natural calamities, terror attacks, war and war-like situations and also in peace missions. They have kept the flag flying high and stood up during crises to save the nation and people. They sang for us, cried with us and kept our morale high. Their contribution in all spheres of life has been a huge and continuous process. They are the nation's pillar of strength both in war and peace. The India army's history of bravery is inexhaustible. They are making every life better with their service and devotion.

If we think about a world without a war, it would be an idealistic world. It's a faraway dream at present, but not impossible. Every nation would be connected in peace, harmony and work for universal growth. Decision-making will not waver while thinking about MY and OTHERS needs. There would be food for all, education for all, right to work for all, no voice would be silenced and happiness and freedom would actualise in real meaning and be the supreme power. Stopping war completely would be a complex situation, but an initiative can be agreed upon. Nations can promote diplomacy and dialogue, go for peaceful negotiations to resolve conflicts and promote mutual understanding and empathy.

WORLD WITHOUT WAR

- Peace and progress
- United efforts to solve disagreements
- More positive and constructive work
- Army to help more in nations progress
- More work for sustainable development
- Strong international cooperation
- World security and concern will be the priority

GLOSSARY

- a. *Commendable*: praiseworthy, appreciable
- b. *Selflessly*: not selfish
- c. *Consequences*: effect, result
- d. *Idealistic*: optimist, looking at the positive side
- e. *Prevail*: overcome

- f. *Harmony*: peaceful agreement,
- g. *Humanitarian*: caring, charitable
- h. *Empathy*: understanding, compassion

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 16.5

- a. Mention three different ways the army has helped the nation since the Independence in 1947.
- b. Why do you think army and the soldiers are the pillar of strength for the nation?
- c. Why do they sing and cry with us?
- d. What kind of a world would it be if there were no wars?
- e. Mention the areas the world could concentrate upon if wars stop.
- f. Name two Kargil war heroes. Which award did they receive posthumously?

TERMINAL EXERCISES

I. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words given in the box to complete the summary.

Section 1

territory, armed, three, endurance, Indo-China, ambushed, compelled, command, ceasefire

In 1962, _____ war had unfolded the stories of bravery within the _____ forces. The war started over the disputed _____ in the Himalayan Region. Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee was a man with _____ under difficult conditions. In 1962, on a brief notice he took over the _____ of 62 Infantry Brigade at Se La on 20 October. The Brigadier and his Brigade held up the advance of the enemies for _____ days. On 17 November, the army was ordered to withdraw the troops from Se La. Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee preferred to stay back and fight, but he was _____ to withdraw with his brigade. Two days after the _____, while returning the Brigadier and hi brigade was _____ and killed treacherously. His bravery and Martyrdom was accepted, but he remains an unsung hero. No award was declared for him posthumously.

Section 2

strength, lost, training, prepared, Mao Zedong, isolated,

In 1961, India faced a terrible defeat and many worthy lives were _____. India was not _____ for the sudden attack by China. The reason for was many like the Indian army lacked sufficient _____ and equipment. Even the hilly land proved to be a hindrance. The information back-up from intelligence was inadequate. They had no idea of the enemies training, _____ and intention. The Chinese army was far superior under the leadership of _____. Even the international factors left India diplomatically _____ and grappling with the war alone in a cold, rough and unknown terrain. After the defeat, there were many changes in India's defence policies and the country's victory in 1965 and 1971 boosted morale.

Section 3

Dalai Lama, border, McMahon, colonial, military, integral,

China took advantage of India's unpreparedness and attacked. The causes were quite a few. The _____ dispute between India and China was a long-standing issue. The border demarcation by the British _____ government known as _____ Line, in North East Frontier Agency, was not accepted by China. Another major cause was India had granted asylum to the 14th _____, the spiritual leader of Tibet. China considered Tibet an _____ part of their territory. China also wanted to display their _____ power in the region to gain a quick victory over India in the NEFA region.

Section 4

conflict, solution, return, bread-earner, trauma, support, everywhere

It is right to say a war can never be a _____ for anything. It is a prolonged and violent _____ of establishing dominance over others. A war has strong political, economical and social _____ consequences. Other than those who are killed in the war, those who

_____ are also impacted by its negative effects. Many go through emotional _____. Families face financial hardships after they lose the _____. Children and adults need long term community _____ to re-build their lives. The war also damages the national properties, monuments, buildings, _____ and brings in instability _____.

Section 5

protecting, terrorism, co-operation, appreciated, idealistic, dialogue, leaders

Ever since the Independence in 1947, the army has helped in nation-building and _____ us from war and war-like situations. They have always been there to save the nation from natural calamities and _____. They have kept the flag flying high. Their hard work during Covid-19 has been highly _____. The Army also maintains peace within the nation. A world without a war would be an _____ world, maybe a faraway dream. It would be a place where peace, harmony and _____ will prevail. Together the countries would think about how to promote diplomacy and _____ and go for peaceful negotiations to resolve conflicts and promote mutual understanding and empathy. Address the root cause of every problem and strengthen international cooperation, talk about arms control agreements and treaties, empower the civil society and protect it, choose and support responsible _____ and encourage peace at all levels.

II. Say whether the following statements are TRUE /FALSE. Correct the false statements.

1. Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee was a brave army man.

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2. China attacked India in 1962.

3. Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee was posthumously honoured.

4. India failed to understand the intention of the Chinese government.

5. A war can never be a solution for any problem.

6. Many families lost their loved ones, but were able to manage their lives.

7. The Indian army has kept the flag flying high.

8. The world without a war wouldn't be a happy place.

9. The army helps in nation building.

10. The army helps the nation only during a war.

III. Write one word answer.

1. Complete freedom from war and conflicts.

2. An army man honoured after his martyrdom.

3. To understand others with compassion.

4. A person who is not a friend.

5. To handle a work or a problem cautiously.

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IV. Choose and tick the correct option (MCQ)

1. The Indo-China war had unfolded the stories of _____ bravery.

- a. immense
- b. courage
- c. sorrow and joy
- d. stories

2. In 1962, _____ was the leader in China.

- a. Zin Ping

- b. Mao Zedong
c. Hiun Tsang
d. none of them
3. Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee was born in Village
- a. Palwal
b. Gurgaon
c. Sankhol
d. Bijwasan
4. NEFA stands for
- a. Never Ever Feel angry
b. North Eastern Frontier Area
c. North Eastern Frontier Agency
d. New East Fire Agency
5. In a victory after a war, the nation _____
- a. suffers a silent defeat
b. celebrates for days
c. gives special bonuses
d. builds new monuments
6. Men who die fighting in the war _____
- a. leave behind a helpless family
b. leave behind lots of money
c. promises to return soon
d. children are adopted by rich families
7. Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee was _____
- a. posthumously awarded
b. requested to stay back and fight the Chinese army
c. not honoured posthumously
d. court marshalled

8. Indian army was not prepared for the war in 1962 because _____
- the army was not trained
 - they lacked facilities to face the enemies
 - they failed to understand the Chinese intention
 - all of the above
9. The Line of Control on Indo-China boundary is called _____
- Radisson line
 - McMahon line
 - Siegfried line
 - Radcliffe line
10. In 1959 India granted refuge to a spiritual leader _____
- 14th Dalai Lama
 - Eckhart Tolle
 - Paulo Coelho
 - Byron Katie

V. The best way to understand the lesson is to organise a group discussion on ‘WAR IS A SOLUTION FOR PROBLEMS OR NOT’.

VI. Answer the following questions in 2 to 3 sentences.

- Who is Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee?
- Where was he posted to fight the war? What kind of a place was it?
- Who was the Chinese Leader when the war was declared? Was he a kind leader? Why?
- Write about Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee’s achievements in foreign land?
- Other than the lives lost, what other destruction does a nation have to suffer?
- Mention two ways the world would be benefited in absence of a war.
- What were the after-effect of India’s defeat in the Indo-Chinese war in 1962?
- What were the reasons for India’s defeat in 1962 Indo-China war?
- What is the McMahon Line? Who decided it?
- Why did China have a disagreement about the McMahon line?

VII. Answer the following questions in 50 – 60 words.

- a. What were the causes of the Chinese attack on India in 1962?
- b. Write a paragraph to describe Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee's bravery in the war-field.
- c. What were the advantages the Chinese army had compared to the Indian army?
- d. Why do you think a war causes more harm to a nation?
- e. Describe the world without a war.
- f. What was Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee's reaction after he was ordered by seniors to return from the battlefield? Was he able to return safely? Why?
- g. Why did the Chinese government feel threatened after India granted refuge to the 14th Dalai Lama?
- h. What happened to the people who returned from the war and those who lost their loved ones in the war?
- i. Who declares war and why is it difficult to stop it?
- j. What is meant by selfless work of the army? On which occasions do they help common men and how?

ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS**CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 16.1**

- a. The 46-year-old Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee was selected on a brief notice to take over the command of 62 Infantry Brigade at Se La on 20 October, 1962 early morning.
- b. Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee was a Jat hero born in Village Sankhol, Haryana.
- c. Brigadier Rathhee exhibits unwavering devotion and dedication, tirelessly committing himself to the highest standards of military service. His resolute passion for his duties is palpable, driving him to consistently go above and beyond in ensuring the success and well-being of his unit.
- d. NEFA was a political division made in British India and later it was the Republic of India until 1972.
- e. The Army was clueless as they had no maps, proper clothes and shoes to walk on heavily snow-covered battle ground.
- f. Brigadier Hoshiar Singh Rathee despite his unwavering devotion and love for the nation remains an unsung hero.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 16.2

- a. Many worthy and brave lives were lost, while the nation shivered in the terrible defeat faced.
- b. After losing many lives, they lost confidence somewhere down the line and decided to call back the armed forces.
- c. Leaders confronted the causes as lack of preparedness, training, equipment, clothing, connectivity, no bunkers and miscalculation of the Chinese strength of armed forces.
- d. Their army was better equipped and trained compared to the Indian army. Hence, the Chinese army could exploit India's weaknesses efficiently.
- e. The inadequate intelligence because the Indian army had poor knowledge of Chinese armed forces' training, strength, capabilities and intention. It led to a miscalculation of the actual Chinese threat and failed to anticipate the Chinese offensive intentions.
- f. The United States which had been supporting India was not able to provide the military help expected at that hour of distress. Even the Soviet Union, despite being India's ally, remained neutral. All these left India diplomatically isolated and grappling with the war alone in a cold, rough and unknown terrain.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 16.3

- a. The border dispute between India and China was one of the long-standing issues.
- b. 14th Dalai Lama. This became a political issue and it damaged the relationship between both the countries. China considered Tibet as an essential and integral part of its territory.
- c. They considered the Dalai Lama as a separatist, who wanted freedom for Tibet. Therefore, by giving shelter to the Dalai Lama, China felt India was interfering into their internal matters.
- d. Dalai Lama escaped from Tibet as he feared his prosecution by the Chinese government.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 16.4

- a. The destruction caused by a war deeply hurt the nation and the people. It is a prolonged and violent conflict of establishing the dominance of one over the other. There isn't any conclusion to such aggression and hunger for territory or resources.
- b. A war is a prolonged and often violent conflict between two or more groups or nations, typically arising from political, ideological, or territorial disputes. Wars involve organized

armed forces engaging in combat, and they can have significant social, economic, and geopolitical consequences, often resulting in widespread destruction and loss of life. Wars can take various forms, including conventional warfare, guerrilla warfare, and cyber warfare, and may have profound impacts on the societies and individuals involved.

- c. War veterans often grapple with physical injuries, PTSD, and mental health challenges upon return. Reintegration into civilian life poses emotional hurdles, strained relationships, and employment difficulties. Comprehensive support, including mental health services and community assistance, is crucial for their successful transition and overall well-being.
- d. War can strain interpersonal relationships as returning individuals may grapple with emotional and psychological challenges. Symptoms of PTSD or trauma can lead to communication difficulties, mood swings, and isolation. Family and friends may struggle to understand, and the adjustment to civilian life can create tensions, impacting the overall dynamics of relationships.
- e. A war damages the national properties, monuments, buildings, schools, brings in political instability, lingering hatred, makes people forcefully evacuate their homes in fear, and life in shelter homes are not happy ones.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 16.5

- a. Army has helped in nation building, protecting us from wars and war- like situations and natural calamities, terrorism, peace missions, etc.
- b. It has been proven countless times by our army men, their dedication, ability to pick up any work at the drop of a hat, bear the consequences of others mistakes quietly and yet stand up for all work without grudges. Innumerable times their personal leaves have been cancelled and they were called back to report at their station on emergency duties.
- c. To keep our morale high.
- d. If we think about a world without a war, perhaps it would definitely be an idealistic world, where peace, harmony and cooperation will prevail.
- e. Nations would work together to solve poverty, inequality, hunger, climate change, etc. Countries would reduce the expenditure on military and spend more on nation building, conflict resolution, cultural exchange, economic stability, humanitarian causes, protect the environment, education, empathy, mental and emotional well-being, social justice, encourage sustainable development, embrace diversity and many more.

- f. Captain Vikram Batra, 13 JAK Rifles, awarded Param Vir Chakra, posthumously.
Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav, awarded Param Vir Chakra, posthumously.



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