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A Study of War Technology and Tactics in India from the Earliest Times to 1947

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Abstract: *Corresponding to the changing times, war technology and tactics in India have also undergone tremendous changes from the Prehistoric period to 1947. Such changes can be attributed to changes in science and technology. Likewise, wars and tactics have necessitated scientific and technological innovations. These are ongoing processes. What we now term as "Military Engineering," was in ancient times called "acumen" or "skill". India has shown a transition from Early Stone Age to the present times in terms of manufacture and use of weapons and tactics. Foreign invasions from time to time hastened such changes. Such technology and tactics have also led to political expansion, growth of trade and commerce and culture in general.*

Key words: *War Technology, Prehistoric period, Science and Technology, Military Engineering, Acumen, Political Expansion, Spread of Trade and Commerce.*

Introduction:

Evolution of war technology and tactics is an ongoing process. From Prehistoric period to 1947, India has witnessed constant growth of war technology and tactics along with the development of science and technology. Both depend upon each other: technology shapes warfare and conversely, war influences technological growth. War technology combines in itself weapons, vehicles and communication systems used in war. Connected to war technology are two terms- 'strategy' and 'tactics'. Strategy is the art of conducting war. Tactics constitute the art of fighting. Both are closely related but strategy is applied on a large scale whereas tactics on a small one and for a limited period of time. Both are necessary "allies" of war technology. There have been numerous instances in history when war technology and tactics have led to political expansion, spread of trade, culture and religion thus connecting the world in a better way. All these aspects hold true for India too.

Hypotheses:

- There has been an advancement of war technology and tactics over the years.
- Development of war technology has been commensurate with the growth of science and technology.

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