

**United Service Institution of India**  
**‘Lt Gen SL Menezes Memorial Indian Military**  
**History Essay Competition 2025’**

**Subject: Doctrinal Evolution of the Indian Armed Forces**  
**Since 1947**

**Concept**

1. The essay on the above mentioned subject should be approached keeping in mind the following:

Since its Independence in 1947, India has faced a dynamic and evolving security landscape, necessitating continuous doctrinal evolution within its armed forces. The Indian Armed Forces have transformed from a post-colonial military structure into a modern, strategic force capable of addressing conventional and unconventional threats. This evolution has been shaped by geopolitical changes, technological advancements, regional security challenges, and lessons learned from past conflicts. However, recent conflicts have shown that the character of warfare is rapidly changing, focusing on multi-domain warfare underscored by disruptive technologies and asymmetric strategies. India is beset with collusive hybrid threats from its adversaries who have developed refined doctrines to fight new-generation wars across the spectrum of conflicts and up the escalation ladder, emphasising Grey Zone conflicts. It is, therefore, imperative for military scholars to examine the evolution of India's military doctrines in light of new-generation warfare and propose tenets of new doctrine with a focus on jointness and theaterwide.

**Rules**

2. The competition is open to all **members of the Indian Armed Forces, the Territorial Army, the Assam Rifles, the Senior Division of the National Cadet Corps, the Paramilitary Forces, the Police, and the Civil Administration in India, including retired personnel**. Entries from foreign nationals are also accepted.
3. Essays must be between 3,000 and 4,000 words in length, including footnotes. The word count should be mentioned in

brackets at the end of the essay. **Entries that do not specify the word count or exceed the prescribed limit are liable to be rejected.**

4. The essay must be an original work by the author. Proper citation of sources is mandatory in the prescribed format. **Jointly authored essays will not be accepted. Entries found guilty of blatant plagiarism will be disqualified, and disciplinary action may be recommended.**

5. A panel of three judges appointed by the USI will evaluate the essays based on the following criteria:

(a) The extent to which the essay provides **fresh insights** into the subject.

(b) Whether the essay, in whole or in part, **is suitable for publication.**

(c) Understanding of the subject.

(d) **Logical development of the theme** and coherence of thought.

(e) Quality of **language and expression.**

(f) Proper use of footnotes and bibliography, as applicable. **Essays lacking footnotes or a bibliography will be rejected.**

6. The decision of the judges will be final. They may recommend a First Prize, which includes a cash award of ₹ 15,000 and a certificate, and a Runner-up Prize, which includes a cash award of ₹ 10,000 and a certificate. Winners will also receive **gratis Life Membership of the USI.** Additionally, the winning essay(s), if recommended by the judges, will be published in the USI Journal.

7. The Institution reserves the right to **withhold awards** if the submitted essays do not meet the required standard. Cases of plagiarism will result in disqualification.

8. **Copyright** of all submitted essays will remain with the **United Service Institution of India.**

9. Essays must be written in English, printed on one side of the paper, and double-spaced. Hard copies should be submitted in triplicate, along with a soft copy sent via email. Essays will be evaluated only after receipt of both hard and soft copies to enable plagiarism check.

10. Hard copy submissions must remain **ANONYMOUS**, with no identifying details of the author included in the essay or the covering letter. **A sealed envelope must accompany the essay, containing a paper with the author's name, address, and email. Service officers must also provide their personal number, rank, date of commission, unit, address, and email.** The title of the essay should be written only on the outside of the envelope. These envelopes will be opened only during the USI Council meeting, after the judges have finalized their decision. **Essays violating the anonymity rule will be rejected.** Additionally, the email forwarding the soft copy must have only the essay title in the subject line.

11. All essays should be sent to the Director General, United Service Institution of India, Rao Tula Ram Marg, Post Bag No.8, Vasant Vihar PO, New Delhi - 110 057, with a submission deadline of **15 September 2025**. The envelopes should be clearly marked as **'Lt Gen SL Menezes Memorial Indian Military History Essay Competition 2025'**. Soft copies must be emailed to menezesesessay@gmail.com **Essays received after last date will not be accepted.**

12. For any queries or clarifications, please contact the **Director CMHCS**, at menezesesessay@gmail.com

### **Style Sheet**

13. All essays must conform to the USI style sheet, available at: <https://www.usiofindia.org/page-details.php?slug=stylesheet>

