

II/YY Post-Vedic and Early Mauryan Indians 519 BC - 272 BC  
Reg / Irr Co; Wooded, Hilly, Plains

a) Kingdoms (519 BC - 270 BC)

<b>Chariots</b>	<b>ChMA</b>	1-2	2-4	3-6
Convert the above to armored chariots	ChHA	0-1	0-1	0-1
Convert the above to retinue	ChM/HAe	0-1	0-1	0-1
Downgrade the above to light chariots	ChLA	0-1	0-1	0-1
<b>Cavalry</b>	<b>CvMi</b>	2-4	4-8	6-12
Downgrade the above to light cavalry	CvLi		any	
<b>Arachosian cavalry</b>	<b>CvL</b>	0-2	0-4	0-6
<b>Elephants</b>	<b>EIM</b>	1-3	2-6	3-9
Convert the above to armored elephants (after 321 BC)			any	
<b>Hereditary and mercenary infantry</b>	<b>SpM/EdM</b>	2-4	4-8	6-12
Convert any of the above to elite		0-2	0-4	0-6
Convert the elite to armored infantrymen (after 321 BC)	SpHe/EdHe		any	
<b>Hereditary and mercenary archers</b>	<b>BwM/BwH</b>	4-8	8-16	12-24
Convert any of the above to elite		0-2	0-4	0-6
<b>Srenibala archers</b>	<b>BwM</b>	0-4	0-8	0-12
Downgrade the above to light archers	BwL		any	
<b>“Wild tribesmen”, light infantry and hunters</b>	<b>SpL</b>	0-4	0-8	0-12
Downgrade the above to followers and dog handlers	Hd	0-2	0-4	0-6

b) Republics (519 BC - 321 BC)

<b>Chariots</b>	<b>ChM</b>	1-2	2-4	3-6
Convert the above to retinue	ChMe	0-1	0-1	0-1
Downgrade the above to light chariots	ChL	0-1	0-1	0-1
<b>Cavalry</b>	<b>CvMi</b>	2-4	4-8	6-12
Downgrade the above to light cavalry	CvLi		any	
<b>Arachosian cavalry</b>	<b>CvL</b>	0-2	0-4	0-6
<b>Hereditary and citizens infantry</b>	<b>SpM/EdM</b>	2-6	4-12	6-18
Convert any of the above to elite		0-2	0-4	0-6
<b>Hereditary and citizens archers</b>	<b>BwM/BwH</b>	4-8	8-16	12-24
Convert any of the above to elite		0-2	0-4	0-6
<b>“Wild tribesmen”, light infantry and hunters</b>	<b>BwL/SpL</b>	1-4	2-8	3-12

c) Mountain tribes (519 BC - 170 BC)

<b>Light cavalry</b>	<b>CvL</b>	4-8	8-16	12-24
Upgrade the above to cavalry	CvM	0-1	0-2	0-3
<b>Spearmen warriors</b>	<b>SpM</b>	2-6	4-12	6-18
<b>Archers</b>	<b>BwM</b>	4-8	8-16	12-24
Downgrade the above to light archers	BwLi		any	
<b>Javelinmen</b>	<b>SpL</b>	0-2	0-4	0-6
<b>Indian mercenaries</b>	<b>SpM/EdM</b>	0-2	0-4	0-6

This list covers the armies of the Northern India from the first contacts with the Achaemenid Empire to the end of Chandragupta's son's reign. It also covers Porus' army and the armies of the Indian republics and the mountain tribes that dwelt in today's Northwest Frontier, Kashmir and Punjab in Pakistan.

The information on the ancient Indian armies is not only scarce but also most of the known works come from foreign, often indirect sources, like Arrian, Ptolemy I or even Strabo, who evidently has never been to India. The best native sources that have survived through the centuries are the Mahabharata, a well know religious text, and the Arthashastra, a political treatise written in Chandragupta's reign by Kautilya, a king's Minister. The “regularity” or “irregularity” of the army's chain of command is difficult, if not impossible to ascertain, and although the Arthashastra may hint us towards a “regular” structure, one must never forget that the Arthashastra is just a treatise, and may reflect more an ideal than reality.

These ancient Indian armies reflected the ideal composition of four branches described in the Mahabharata: elephants, chariots, cavalry and infantry. The only serious variation came from the

independent Republics who didn't had elephants, and the "mountain Indians" (who were probably of Iranian stock), who relied on their good cavalry and had no chariots at all.

The most noticeable king of this period was Porus, who faced and inflicted severe casualties on Alexander the Great's forces before being himself captured. However, Porus' forces were meagre if compared to power of the Nanda kingdom further East, who was said to be capable of mustering some 600 elephants. The famous mutiny in the Macedonian lines may have save Alexander's face, if not his life!

The Mauryan Empire (321 BC – 183 BC) emerged from the Indian provinces ravaged by Alexander the Great's army. The founder of the dynasty, Chandragupta Maurya, united this provinces and soon after managed to conquer the powerful Nanda kingdom further East, thus unifying most of India.

In the highly stratified Indian society, the bulk of the Indian armies consisted of professional (*Bhrta*) and hereditary warriors of the *Kshathriya* (warrior) caste. This is confirmed by Kautilya's Arthashastra. Some of these men were considered elite, as it is stressed, once more, in the Arthashastra: "(...) He [the King] should make the central portion of his army consists of such men as are noted from their bravery, skill, high birth and loyalty (...)". He then further indicates the existence of a retinue made by the king's family, all men proficient in the use of weapons.

Along with the bows, the professional infantry was armed with big spears, long broadswords, clubs, battle-axes, halberds, tridents and javelins. They also used large, tall shields.

The ranks were also supplemented by contingents supplied by the *Srenibala*, or "Guilds of arms", these being levied and garrison troops of lesser quality.

The mounted branch of the army was made of chariots and ordinary cavalry. While the former was used as the shock force, the later, being unable to cope with the chariots, was assigned to support and scouting roles, thus the inferior status.

The presence of elephants in the Indian forces is more than well attested, our first report coming from the Arthashastra. However, it seems that the Indian republics didn't had these beasts, presumably because they couldn't afford it.

The Arthashastra says that armour was issued to horses, elephants and men, although this may have been true for the professional and hereditary soldiers only.

Filipe Santos Martins

Special rule:

The Indian mounted are not vulnerable to elephants.

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