



Research Paper

Yashwantrao Holkar's War Strategy

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Abstract :-

The British dreamed of expanding their empire in India through the East India Company and establishing their dominance over the whole of India. In view of this, through East India Company, the British brought down the kings' institutions with small to large princely states under their dominance. Yashwantrao was watching each and every movement of the British. In order to prevent them from reaching the Maratha by studying the war strategy against the British, goals appear to be adopted at different levels. Accordingly, Yashwantrao's war strategy war subject role strategy, plan attack, direct action, military equipment, material distribution system war related guerrilla tactics etc. In this research paper, the researcher is trying to focus on the war strategy of Yashwantrao Holkar.

Keywords:- War plans, war, war strategy of Yashwantrao Holkar.

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Objectives :-

- ✦ To know the war plans, war tactics, strategy of Yashwantrao Holkar.
- ✦ To study war tactics implemented by Yashwantrao Holkar.
- ✦ To understand plans strategy.

Hypothesis :-

1. Yashwantrao's role in war strategy and object of war was clear.

Methodology :-

1. Descriptive and analytical method has been used for the present research paper for the completion of this research paper. The data relating to this research paper has been collected through various books, letters, news papers etc.

Limitations :-

1. The present research paper is limited to only the war plans, strategy and tactics of Yashwantrao Holkar against the British.

Yashwantrao Holkar & Strategy, war plans, war tactics:-

Yashwantrao Holkar strategy the enemy the state & what strategy should be adopted against them & where to bring the enemy army & put in the pit decided & forced the enemy army to move as he wanted is called war strategy.

Addressing his troops, Yashwantrao Holkar said that it is not appropriate for a hero to run away. The real sign of a hero is that the warrior has to face the situation, breaking & defeating the enemy army. Facing war in a war-like situation is the job of a true & have a sense of sacrifice as well as keep an eye on every movement of the enemy. Military officers & soldiers should keep their self-confidence high but over-confidence is detrimental to themselves.

In the battle of Bharatpur Yashwantrao told Ranjitsingh Jatala, that fighting under the shelter of the fort is not in our blood, we will stay outside the fort & harass the British, no one has taught the Marathas to fight at a slow pace, our war has tremendous momentum.

Destiny as many pieces of enemy forces as you can in one attack (disrupting the organized enemy, not keeping the team together). Stay away from the enemy quickly when the enemy does not seem to be coming under your control. During that period, we saw Yashwantrao Holkar's strategy of looting British supplies & bringing the enemy on exhaust Yashwantrao's war plan used to weaken the enemy. Yashwantrao had brought British army on their feet using the tactic of guerrilla warfare. Yashwantrao had mastered the art of warfare on the basis of his war like tactics.

Yashwantrao Holkar was a skilled general in martial arts. Whenever Yashwantrao faced a real battle, he would divide his army into four to five groups & attack the enemy forces from all four sides. They thought that different groups should attack the enemy rather than confine all the troops from one place, so it was all attack any fair outcome for this. Yashwantrao's strategy was to divide the army into different groups & attack the enemy, which the enemy may not know till the end.

At the beginning of the actual war Yashwantrao himself was inspecting the battle field & observing the enemy's tactics. Seeing the movements of the enemy in the battlefield, Yashwantrao himself guided his troops. It according to the tactics they have adopted on the battlefield, their military coherence does not appear to be homogeneous among them, if the strategy drawn against them is not implemented or when the enemy was attacking his army Yashwantrao himself would go down to the battlefield & visit every place of their soldier. If there was instability in planning, then he would bring back to normal & keep an eye on the whole battle field there was such a personality in the Maratha dynasty that Yashwantrao thought alone against the British for a united India. It is considered to be an important milestone in the life of Yashwantrao Holkar. Yashwantrao's strategy was not to wage war against the British on the battlefield. Yashwantrao was aware that the military power of the British was greater than his. It is seen here that Yashwantrao used the tactic of guerrilla warfare instead of direct attack against the British.

Yashwantrao Holkar was master of tactics. He knew how to attack the enemy on the battlefield Yashwantrao & his army would stop the enemy forces at various places in the battle & attack the enemy forces by dividing them on the battlefield. Yashwantrao's army would force the enemy to pursue him if the number of enemy was coming upon him. If the enemy pushes away from the area of battlefield they would tell their soldiers to go in different directions, so that the enemy forces are scattered at that time, he used to gather his troops moving in different directions & attack the scattered forces of the enemy. At that time, Yashwantrao Holkar's strategy was to weaken the enemy army & conquer them. In the battle field of Mukundraogarge, Captain Masons & Yashwantrao Holkar's warriors ran upto 200 miles. Yashwantrao's tactics were such that the momentum in this war was fast, consistent & had a huge aggression. In the history of Maratha dynasty, Yashwantrao was the first Maratha sardar who have marched 200 miles against the British officers / army.

British rules in the different parts of India were horrified by seeing the fate of Captain Monsoon in the battle of Mukundra Gorge. In this battle of Mukundra Gorge, the British army was tired of Yashwantrao's chase & if they were coming somewhere for the rest Yashwantrao's equestrian used to stand in front of them to drive them away. If the British army tried to descend into the blooded river, Yashwantrao's troops were present on the bank of the river to bury the British soldiers. If Captain Monsoon's army probably gets the logistics, then suppose that Yashwantrao's cavalry encircles the British troops. This is how Yashwantrao Holkar's war strategy is known / see.

Yashwantrao Holkar was fighting with the help of guerrilla warfare, in this he was skilled the method of guerrilla warfare of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is to leave the place by inflicting as much damage as possible on the enemy. No other Maratha sardar has assembled in Maratha dynasty as effectively as Yashwantrao did Yashwantrao's fighting skill was to divide his army into small groups & leave the battlefield at great distances & attack a while these divided armies would come together & attack the enemy with speed. Yashwantrao used guerrilla warfare was used through the Yashwantrao's cavalry. Yashwantrao's cavalry was forced to chase the enemy far away. He did not give chance for enemy to fight face to face. Yashwantrao's cavalry was attacking the enemy forces when the enemy's cavalry was exhausted was treating by constantly on the enemy throwing spears at them, most of enemy troops were killed in such a manner that they were sometimes chased away. In this way Yashwantrao Holkar's war strategy is seen against the enemy in the battlefield.

According to his tactics, Yashwantrao would go to right or left flank of the enemy's army & reach out to the enemy troops, the food they have weapons & other tools used to loot Yashwantrao Holkar & his army were adept at attacking the enemy through guerrilla warfare in such a way as to loot their belongings in order to create terror in the army, war tactics & all of a sudden the enemy was shocked by the sudden onslaught of intensity. Thus Yashwantrao had carried out his war strategy against the British.

Conclusion :-

We can say that yashwantraoholkars strategy and tactics were different from others. They defined each and every plan and strategy of war against the British and carried out during the war. He had implement all the mans. Strategy and tactics in such way they could defeat the British empire very easily Because of this they was a great soldier in post Maratha Empire.

Major Findings:-

- 1) Yashwantrao Holkar's war strategy was effective in the post Maratha period.
- 2) Yashwantrao was the only Maratha chief in the plans to carry out chatraptishivajimaharajs guerrilla warfare.
- 3) From a geopolitical point of view yashwantrao had planned his war shstrategy according to geographical factors.
- 4) He carried out guerrilla warfare tactics in the plains against the enemy through cavalry.
- 5) The tactics learned from yashwantrao's continuous military campaign were adopted to the situation in the northern plains.
- 6) He had implemented such a policy in the latter half of the Marathas by chasing the enemy & defeating it.
- 7) Yashwantrao had brought the british to exhaust using the tactic of guerrilla warfare.

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