

# INDIAN DEFENCE

- The President of India is the supreme commander of the Indian Defence System.
- The day-to-day operations are managed by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and other military officials, with the Prime Minister holding executive authority over defence policy.
- The whole administrative control of the Armed forces lies in the Ministry of Defence.
- Indian Defence System has been divided into three services - Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force.

## Indian Army

- The Indian Army is divided into 40 Divisions & 14 Corps.
- The Indian Army Headquarters is in **New Delhi**.

### Top Three Countries With The Largest Active-Duty Military Forces Are (As of January 2024 ):

1. China has the largest active-duty military in the world, with around 2 million active soldiers
2. India has 1.45 million active military personnel
3. United States has 1.33 million active military personnel

## Organization of the Indian Army

- Indian Army is organized in two parts - Combat Arms and Services.

### Combat Arms

- This is the fighting forces of the Army. This comprises :
- **Infantry:** The key role of infantry is to attack and defend during a war. All the other branches support these troops on foot.
- **Armoured Corp:** This unit has the armoured regiments of the Indian Army. It comprises 63 armoured regiments.
- **Regiment of Artillery:** Artillery is the second largest unit of the Indian Army. It comprises one-sixth of the Army's total strength. Artillery consists of aerial vehicles, surveillance systems, mortars, guns, rocket launchers, missiles, and artillery firepower. It is further subdivided into Corps of Army Air Defence and Field Artillery.
- **Mechanised Infantry:** The Mechanised Infantry Regiment comprises 27 battalions deployed under various armoured formations throughout India.
- **Army Aviation Corps:** The Army Aviation Corps functions during external aggressions and attacks enemies from the air. Furthermore, it ensures logistical support to the Indian Army in remote regions.
- **Corps of Army Air Defence:** Army Air Defence comprises guns and rockets to handle airborne enemy attacks.

### Combat Support Arms

The following are the divisions/structures under this unit:

- **Army Ordnance Corps:** This unit procures clothes for weapons such as tanks, missiles etc., except medicines, fuel, and fodder for the Indian Army.
- **Corps of EME:** EME Corps handles the development, design, trial, testing, inspection and fitting of equipment and weapons. Besides, they provide technical advice to troops and conduct recovery missions in peace and war.
- **Army Supply/Service Corps:** These units procure and distribute fresh & dry food items, food supplies, rations, hygiene chemicals, fuels, oil and lubricants, carriage & distribution of weapons and ammunition, and hospital comforts items to Army.
- **Corps of Signals:** Corps of Signals handles Indian Army's military communications. This unit functions closely with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and develops control and command software.
- **Army Medical Corps:** It is a specialist unit/division in the Indian Army which provides medical services to all army personnel.
- **Corps of Engineers:** This unit handles all the technical aspects of missions. This team comprises - Combat Engineers, Border Roads Organisation, Military Engineering Service, Married Accommodation Project and Survey of India.

### Supporting Arms

This unit supports the other two divisions of the Indian Army, especially the Fighting Arms of the Indian Army. Read all about them in detail below:

- **Intelligence Corps:** Military Intelligence Corps handles counter-terrorism in the north and the northeast areas. Besides, it operates specific intelligence for small-group missions. This team also handles counterintelligence, which includes identifying and detecting spies in military areas.
- **Army Dental Corps:** Army Dental Corps have officers assisting the troops and soldiers by educating them about maintaining their oral hygiene and making them aware of dental care.
- **Corps of Military Police:** Corps of Military Police receive rigorous training to handle prisoners of war. This unit also regulates traffic and operates telecommunication equipment.

- **Army Education Corps:** This unit educates soldiers and officers of all ranks in several disciplines about various tactics and strategies to be implemented during warfare. Officials of these institutes provide education in combat and non-combat missions. Additionally, they provide education in military academies like NDA, AFA, ACC, IMA, INA, etc. and post-commission courses.
- **Military Nursing Service:** Military Nursing Service is a primary division of the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS). After independence, the authorities of this unit have played a crucial role in United Nations peacekeeping missions abroad.
- **Military Farms Services:** Military Farms were established during the British era to supply the Indian Army with dairy products. As of August 2017, the Government has ordered the closing down of all 39 Military Farms as they are not in use currently.
- **Territorial Army:** The Territorial Army is an auxiliary military organisation comprising part-time volunteers. This unit provides support services to the Indian Army and functions for a limited period while being in civilian service for the rest of the year.
- **Pioneer Corps:** These units provide well-trained manpower in places where civilian labour is unavailable, or employment is not required due to security purposes. Pioneer units are mostly committed to operational areas.
- **Judge Advocate General's Department:** It is the legal division of the Indian Army. This unit deal will include all the court marshals. This branch provides legal advice to the soldiers and practises military law on its personnel.
- **Army Postal Service Corps:** This division ensures postal, remittance, savings & insurance facilities to Army, Indian Navy, Air Force and Paramilitary forces personnel. There are about 500 Field Post Offices established across India. This unit also provides cover to Indian soldiers deployed with United Nations peacekeeping Forces abroad.
- **Defence Security Corps:** The responsibility of this unit is to ensure the security of designated defence installations and safeguard them from pilferage or sabotage. This department ensures security at India's nuclear laboratories, Indian Ordnance Factories, and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) establishments.
- **Remount and Veterinary Corps:** Remount and Veterinary Corps breeds, rears and trains all animals used in the battalion.

### Services

- Apart from the Combat and Combat support Arms, the remaining army is organised under the services. Their main task is to provide logistical (arms, ammunition, rations etc.) material to the army.
- The Services include the following departments:
  1. Army Service Corps
  2. Army Medical Corps
  3. Army Dental Corps
  4. Army Ordnance Corps
  5. Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers
  6. Remount and Veterinary Corps
  7. Military Farms Service
  8. Army Education Corps
  9. Corps of Military Police
  10. Pioneer Corps
  11. Army Postal Service Corps
  12. Intelligence Corps
  13. Judge Advocate General's Department
  14. Military Nursing Service

### All Commands

The Indian Army is organized into six operational commands and one training command. :

Commands	Headquarters
1. Western Command	Chandimandir, Chandigarh
2. Eastern Command	Kolkata
3. Northern Command	Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir (56 A.P.O.)
4. Southern Command	Pune
5. Central Command	Lucknow
6. Army Training Command	Shimla
7. South Western Command	Jaipur

### Sub Divisions of the Army

- The Army has further sub divisions where the soldiers are grouped into a fighting force.
- The combat arms are infantry and armed corps others are combat support arms and services unit. Infantry is organized as under :

**Section :** 10 soldiers make a Section

**Platoon :** 3 sections make a Platoon headed by a JCO (Junior Commissioned Officer)

**Battery:** Comprising either 3 or 4 sections, in artillery and air defence units. Every battery has two officers, the senior of which is the Battery Commander.

**Company** : 3 Platoons make a Company headed by a Company Commander who is a Major or Lt.Colonel in rank.

**Battalion** - 4 companies make a Battalion. This is the main fighting unit of infantry and is commanded by a Battalion Commander in the rank of Colonel.

**Brigade** - 3 battalions form a Brigade and commanded by Brigade Commander, a Brigadier rank officer.

**Division** - 3 to 4 Brigades make up a Division headed by a Major General who is termed GOC (Division Commander). The Indian Army today has 37 divisions including Infantry, Mountain, Armoured, Artillery and Re-organised Army Plains Infantry Division or RAPIDS.

**Corps** - 3 to 4 divisions make up a Corps. A Lieutenant General heads the Corp as GOC (Corps Commander).

**Command**- Each command is led by General Officer Commanding-in-Chief with the rank of Lieutenant General. India has 7 Commands of which six are operational commands and one training command called ARTRAC (Army Training Command)

- India also has three services commands, namely the Strategic Forces Command,
- Integrated Defense Staff (IDS) and the Andaman and Nicobar Command. These are headed by Army Navy and Air Force officers on a rotational basis.
- The commands are divided into Areas and Sub-Areas. An area is commanded by a General Officer Commanding of the rank of a Major General and a sub-area by a Brigadier.

### Some notable operations conducted by Indian Army are as follows:

- **Operation Vijay**- It was launched by the Indian Army in 1961 to free Goa from the control of the Portuguese.
- **Operation Blue Star**- Who can forget about Indian Army's continuous efforts to save Golden temple and people inside it in 1984 from the claws of Sikh separatists.
- **Operation Black Thunder**- Operation Black Thunder was launched by DGP Gill to remove the militants from the Golden Temple in Amritsar.
- **Operation Poomalai**- Operation Poomalai was launched in 1987 by the Indian Air Force to help the Indian Army Defense Force who had gone to establish peace in Jaffna, Sri Lanka.
- **Operation Virat**- A counter-insurgency operation launched in April 1988 against the LTTE in northern Sri Lanka.
- **Operation Trishul**- A counter-insurgency operation launched against the LTTE in northern Sri Lanka in April 1988 by the Indian Peace Keeping Force along with Operation Viraat.
- **Operation Checkmate**- A counter-insurgency operation launched by the Indian Peace Keeping Force against the LTTE in northern Sri Lanka in June 1988.
- **Operation Cactus**- Operation Cactus was launched by the Indian Armed Forces in 1988 to remove the mercenaries who had carried out a coup in Malé, Maldives.
- **Operation Bajrang**- In 1990, a military campaign was launched against ULFA in Assam.
- **Operation Rhino**- In 1992, a military operation was launched to find out the bases of ULFA in Assam.
- **Operation Vijay(2)**- A military operation by the Indian Army to push back the intruders from the Kargil sector in the 1999 Kargil War.
- **Operation Parakram**- In response to the attack on the Indian Parliament in 2001, India deployed its troops along the India-Pakistan border.
- **Operation Vajra Sakti**- In 2002, a campaign was launched to get the Akshardham temple of Gandhinagar, Gujarat evacuated from the terrorists.
- **Operation goodwill**- In the year 2005, a campaign was launched for humanitarian work in Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Operation Dhangu Suraksha**- Military exercise conducted in January 2016 against the attack on the airbase in Pathankot, Punjab.
- **Operation Samudra Setu**- This Operation Samudra Setu was launched on 5 May 2020 as a national effort to bring back Indian citizens from abroad during Covid-19.

### Ranks of commissioned officers in the Indian Army, in ascending order, are as follows:

- Lieutenant
- Captain
- Major
- Lieutenant Colonel
- Colonel
- Brigadier
- Major General
- Lieutenant General
- General

## Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs)

- Subedar Major
- Subedar
- Naik Subedar

## Non-commissioned officers (NCOs)

- Havildar
- Naik
- Lance Naik

## Major Exercises 2024

Desert Cyclone I	United Arab Emirates
Sada Tanseeq I	Saudi Arabia
Dharma Guardian V	Japan
Lamitiye X	Seychelles
Dustlik V	Uzbekistan
Shakti VII	France
Maitree XIII	Thailand
Nomadic Elephant XVI	Mongolia
Parvat Prahar	Sri Lanka
Mitra Shakti X	United States
Yudh Abhyas	Oman
Al Najah-V	Kazakhstan
KAZIND VIII	Indonesia
Garud Shakti IX	United States
Vajra Prahar XV	Vietnam
VINBAX 24	Singapore
Agni Warrior	Cambodia
CINBAX	Malaysia
Harimaru Shakti IV	

## Awards

### Wartime gallantry awards

- Param Vir Chakra (PVC)
- Maha Vir Chakra (MVC)
- Vir Chakra (VrC)

### Peacetime gallantry awards

- Ashok Chakra (AC)
- Kirti Chakra (KC)
- Shaurya Chakra (SC)

### Wartime distinguished service medals

- Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal (SYSM)
- Uttam Yudh Seva Medal (UYSM)
- Yudh Seva Medal (YSM)

### Peacetime distinguished service medals

- Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM)
- Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM)
- Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM)

## Training Establishments

- National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, Pune
- Indian Military Academy, Dehradun
- Officer's Training Academy, Chennai
- Officer's Training Academy, Gaya
- Army War College, Mhow
- Infantry School, Mhow
- College of Materials Management (CMM), Jabalpur
- AEC Training College and Centre, Pachmarhi
- Military College of Telecommunication (MCTE), Mhow
- Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC), Dehradun
- Remount Training School and Depot, Hempur
- High Altitude Warfare School (HAWS), Gulmarg
- AC Centre & School (ACCS), Ahmednagar
- School of Artillery, Devlali
- College of Military Engineering (CME), Pune
- Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune
- Military Intelligence Training School and Depot, Pune
- Army School of Physical Training (ASPT), Pune
- Institute of National Integration, Pune
- Institute of Military Law, Kamptee
- Army Sports Institute, Pune
- Combat Army Aviation Training School, Nasik Road Camp, Nasik
- Heavy Bridging Training Camp, Marve
- Army Air Defence College (AADC), Gopalpur
- Junior Leaders Wing, Infantry School, Belgaum
- Army Service Corps (ASC), Bangalore
- CMP Centre & School, Bangalore
- Rashtriya Military School, Belgaum
- Rashtriya Military School, Bangalore
- Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare (CIJW) School, Vairengte
- Junior Leader's Academy, Bareilly
- Army Medical Corps (AMC) Centre & School, Lucknow
- RVC Centre & School, Meerut Cantt.
- Army Airborne Training School, Agra
- Remount Training School and Depot, Saharanpur
- Electronic and Mechanical Engineering (EME) School, Vadodara
- Military College of Electronic and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME), Secunderabad
- Simulator Development Division, Trimulgherry, Secunderabad
- Rashtriya Military School, Ajmer
- Rashtriya Military School, Dholpur
- Rashtriya Military School, Chail
- Special Forces Training School, Nahan
- Mechanised Infantry Regimental Centre, Ahmednagar
- Artillery Training Centre, Nasik
- Bombay Engineer Group and Centre, Kirkee
- Guards Training Centre, Kamptee
- Army Postal Service Centre, Kamptee
- Punjab Regimental Centre, Ramgarh
- Sikh Regimental Centre, Ramgarh
- Madras Engineer Group & Centre, Bangalore
- Parachute Regimental Centre, Bangalore
- Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre, Belgaum

- Army Service Corps Centre (South), Bangalore
- Pioneer Corps Centre, Bangalore
- Army Service Centre (North), Bangalore
- Artillery Training Centre, Hyderabad
- Army Ordnance Corps Centre, Secunderabad
- 1 Electrical and Mechanical Engineer Centre, Secunderabad
- Bengal Engineer Group and Centre, Roorkee
- Jat Regimental Centre, Bareilly
- Rajput Regimental Centre, Fatehgarh
- Dogra Regimental Centre, Faizabad
- Sikh Light Infantry Regimental Centre, Fatehgarh
- 39 Gorkha Training Centre, Varanasi
- 11 Gorkha Rifles Regimental Centre, Lucknow 66 Kumaon Regimental Centre, Ranikhet
- Garhwal Rifles Regimental Centre, Lansdowne
- 1 Signal Training Centre, Jabalpur
- Grenadiers Regimental Centre, Jabalpur
- Jammu & Kashmir Rifles Regimental Centre, Jabalpur
- Mahar Regimental Centre, Sagar
- 3 Electrical and Mechanical Engineer Centre, Bhopal
- 2 Signal Training Centre, Panaji
- Madras Regimental Centre, Wellington
- Rajputana Rifles Regimental Centre, Delhi Cantt.
- Bihar Regimental Centre, Danapur
- Assam Regimental Centre, Shillong
- 58 Gorkha Training Centre, Shillong
- Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre, Srinagar
- Headquarters Ladakh Scouts, Leh
- 14 Gorkha Training Centre, Sabathu
- Defence Security Corps Centre, Cannanore
- Air Defence Artillery Centre, Gopalpur, Orissa
- Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington
- College of Defence Management (CDM), Secunderabad

