

Army Chief of India

On 1st April 1895, the Indian Army was founded. Before January 1949, it was known as the British Indian Army. The office of the **Army Chief of India** has a rich history which goes all the way back to 1947. General Sir Robert Lockhart was the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army. The first Indian to hold this post was Field Marshal Kodandera M. Cariappa. The office of the General of Indian Army was created in 1955. Before that, from 1947 to 1948, the post was called Commander-in-Chief. Then, there was a change in the designation which led to it being called Chief of the Army Staff and Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from 1948 to 1955. It was finally in 1955 that the designation Army Chief of India was finalised after the parliament act was passed. This position is of utmost strategic importance and is always held by a general with 4 stars and demonstrated history of merit in the army. Since the army's inception, India has had 4 Commanders-in-Chief and 28 Chiefs of Army Staff to date. The office of the Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) is physically located in South Block, Central Secretariat, Raisina Hill, New Delhi.

Current Army Chief of India

The current Chief of Army Staff is General Manoj Pande from the Engineering Corps. He assumed the office of Army Chief of India on 30 April 2022 after getting selected for the post by the Indian Government. He succeeded Manoj Mukund Naravane, who left the office on 30 April. Pande is responsible for various operations within the army and advises the government on defence strategies. He is the first person from his unit of commission to become Chief of Army Staff. Before this, he was also Vice Chief of Army Staff and Commander-in-Chief of Andaman and Nicobar Command. He also served as General Officer-Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command before assuming his role as the Army Chief.

List of Chief of Army Staff (CoAS)

General Sir Robert Lockhart was appointed as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army on 15 August 1947. The last British to hold this post was General Francis Robert Roy Bucher. On 16th January 1949, Field Marshal Kodandera Madappa Cariappa became the first person of Indian origin to hold the office of Army Chief of India. A total of 32 people have held this prestigious post will now. Below, we have provided a full list of Chief of Army Staff, their tenures, and their unit of commission.

List of Army Chief of India			
Tenure	Name	Rank	Unit of Commission
15 August 1947 to 31 December 1947	General Sir Robert Lockhart	Commander-in-Chief	51 Sikhs Frontier Force

21 June 1948 to 15 January 1949	General Francis Robert Roy Bucher	Chief of Army Staff	Scottish Rifles
16 January 1949 to 14 January 1953	Field Marshal Kodandera Madappa Cariappa		Rajput Rifles
15 January 1953 to 1 April 1955	General Maharaj Rajendrasinhji Jadeja		2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse)
1 April 1955 to 14 May 1955	General Maharaj Rajendrasinhji Jadeja		2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse)
15 May 1955 to 7 May 1957	General Satyawant Mallana Shrinagesh		19th Hyderabad Regiment
8 May 1957 to 7 May 1961	General Kodandera Subayya Thimayya		19th Hyderabad Regiment
8 May 1961 to 19 November 1962	General Pran Nath Thapar		1st Punjab Regiment
20 November 1962 to 7 June 1966	General Jayanto Nath Chaudhuri		7th Light Cavalry

8 June 1966 to 7 June 1969	General Paramasiva Prabhakar Kumaramangalam		Regiment of Artillery
8 June 1969 to 15 January 1973	Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw		12th Frontier Force Regiment
16 January 1973 to 31 May 1975	General Gopal Gurunath Bewoor		Dogra Regiment
1 June 1975 to 31 May 1978	General Tapishwar Narain Raina		Kumaon Regiment
1 June 1978 to 31 May 1981	General Om Prakash Malhotra		Regiment of Artillery
1 June 1981 to 31 July 1983	General Kotikalapudi Venkata Krishna Rao		Mahar Regiment
1 August 1983 to 31 January 1986	General Arun Kumar Shridhar Vaidya		9th Deccan Horse
1 February 1986 to 31 May 1988	General Krishnaswamy Sundarji		Mahar Regiment
1 June 1988 to 30 June 1990	General Ashwa Nath Sharma		16th Light Cavalry

1 July 1990 to 30 June 1993	General Sunith Francis Rodrigues		Regiment of Artillery
1 July 1993 to 19 November 1994	General Bipin Chandra Joshi		64th Cavalry
20 November 1994 to 30 September 1997	General Shankar Roy Chowdhary		20th Lancers
1 October 1997 to 30 September 2000	General Ved Prakash Malik		Sikh Light Infantry
1 October 2000 to 31 December 2002	General Sundarajan Padmanabhan		Regiment of Artillery
1 January 2003 to 31 January 2005	General Nirmal Chander Vij		Dogra Regiment
1 February 2005 to 30 September 2007	General Joginder Jaswant Singh		Maratha Light Infantry
1 October 2007 to 31 March 2010	General Deepak Kapoor		Regiment of Artillery

1 April 2010 to 31 May 2012	General Vijay Kumar Singh		Rajput Regiment
1 June 2012 to 31 July 2014	General Bikram Singh		Sikh Light Infantry
1 August 2014 to 31 December 2016	General Dalbir Singh Suhag		5 Gorkha Rifles
31 December 2016 to 31 December 2019	General Bipin Rawat		11th Gorkha Rifles
31 December 2019 to 30 April 2022	General Manoj Mukund Naravane		7th Sikh Light Infantry
30 April 2022 to Present	General Manoj Pande		Corps of Engineers

Tenure of Indian Army Chief

A Chief of Army Staff can hold its office for 3 years or till they reach a maximum age of 62 years, whichever comes first. There is no minimum age limit to become an Indian Army Chief. However, possessing four stars and being a full General are the conditions that must be satisfied before one becomes eligible for the post of Army General of India.

Army Chief of India Salary

The Chief of Army Staff is a well-paid position and has the highest payout in the army. The Army chief of India salary is set according to the norms of the 7th pay commission and is paid on the Level 18 of the pay scale. Apart from the salary, Army Chief is also entitled to various perks and benefits such as government amenities for housing, transportation, etc. The Chief of Army Staff salary is fixed at Rs 2,50,000 and follows the norms of the Indian government.

Retirement Age of Army Chief of India

The retirement age of the Chief of Army Staff is 62 years old. There is no particular age limit set for the post of Army Chief. The position is held by the highest-ranking officer in India; however, the tenure is only 3 years. Thus, the retirement of the Army Chief of India depends on whether they attain the age of 62 first or complete 3 years of service. These are the only criteria based on which the retirement of the Army head is based.

