

Indian Army

Indian Army is the world's largest standing volunteer army and world's third largest standing army following China and USA according to the International Institute of Strategic Studies. Its strength includes 1220010 active personnel and 990960 reserve personnel.



Logo of Indian Army

It is headquartered at New Delhi, under the overall command, control and administration of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS). The primary responsibility of army is to safeguard territorial integrity of the nation and ensure defence of the republic of India from external aggression, threats and to maintain peace and security within its borders. In addition, it also conducts humanitarian rescue operations during natural disasters and other disturbances.

Motto "Service before self"

Colour Gold, Red, Black.

Army day 15th January

The President of India is the Commander-in-Chief of the army while the General, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), is a four stars commander and commands the army.

Indian Army is one of the best armies in the world. Modernisation and upgradation has been a continuous process in the army to keep the Armed Forces ready to meet any adversity.

The Indian Army came into being after India's independence in 1947. It inherited most of its infrastructure of the British Indian Army that was located in post-partition India. Until today, the army has been involved in four major

wars with neighbouring Pakistan and one with China. This apart, other major operations carried out by the army include Operation Meghdoot, Operation Lal Dora, Operation Vijay, Operation Cactus and Operation Maitri. Indian army also led Operation Surya Hope for saving people trapped in the 2013 North India floods, reflecting humanitarian aspect of army. The army also takes active part in United Nations Peacekeeping Missions. India became second largest troop contributor in 2014.

Nature of Work

Army troops are organised into two main categories :

(i) Arms

It consists of the Armoured Corps, the Infantry, the Artillery, the Engineers, the Signals and more recently, the Air Defence Corps and the Aviation Corps, both of which originate from the Artillery. The Armoured Corps and Infantry are called fighting arms. The Artillery, Engineers, Signals, Air Defence Corps and Aviation Corps are called supporting arms, as they support the fighting arms in the field.

Regiment or Corps of Arms alongwith their schools/centres are tabulated below :

Regiment/ Corps	School / Centre
Armoured Corps Regiment	The Armoured Corps Centre and School, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
Corps of Army Air Defence	The Army Air Defence College, Gopalpur, Odisha
Regiment of Artillery	The School of Artillery, Nashik
Corps of Engineers	The College of Military Engineering, Dapodi(Pune). The centres are located at Bengal Engineer Group, Roorkee; and Bombay Engineer Group, Kirkee and Pune
Corps of Signals	Military College of Telecommunication Engineering, Mhow

(ii) Services

Those troops that provide the logistical support to the arms are called services.

These are :

- **The Army Service Corps (ASC)** It is centered at Bengaluru. The ASC is responsible for the provisioning, procurement, and distribution of supplies, for mechanical as well as animal transportation and air dispatch.
- **Army Ordnance Corps (AOC)** It is centered at Secunderabad. The AOC is responsible for procurement, storage and distribution of weapons ammunitions, vehicles, equipment and clothing at the right time, in right quantity, at the right place and right cost.
- **Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (EME)** It is centered at Secunderabad. The EME repairs and maintains all major and minor electrical, electronic and mechanical devices that the army uses.
- **Army Medical Corps (AMC)** It is centered at Lucknow. It provides medical and hospital cover for the entire army.

Other Services

Besides these major services, there are several minor services such as Intelligence Corps, Corps of Military Police (CMP), Army Postal Service (APS), Army Education Corps (AEC), Remount and Veterinary Corps (RVC), Army Dental Corps (ADC), Army Physical Training Corps and Legal (JAG - Judge Advocate General) Department.

Officers, JCOs and ORs (Other Ranks) are inducted into the army and trained in a particular Arm or Service and they continue to serve in the same arm or service throughout their careers. However, basic military training in handling and use of personal weapons and small arms and physical performance and fitness is the same irrespective of the arm or service. The sub-units, units and formations of each of the arms and services are organised and equipped to carry out their role in battle. The fighting arms (Armoured Corps and Infantry) engage the enemy in actual combat. The Artillery provides the supporting artillery fire.

The Engineers provide the mobility to the fighting arms (e.g., mine clearing, bridges, obstacle clearance, bunker demolition) while denying mobility to the enemy (e.g., mine laying, demolitions, obstacle construction). The Signals provide physical dispatch of messages and line and wireless communication. The Air Defence Corps provides support against enemy air attack. The Aviation Corps provides aerial reconnaissance and aerial observation posts, besides providing rapid mobility to commanders in the field.

Rank Structure in Indian Army

Field Marshal is the highest rank for Indian Army, but this honorary rank as of now does not exist in the present army structure. Only two distinguished officers hold this rank, namely, late Sam Manekshaw and late KM Cariappa. In the new structure of Indian Army, rank 'General' is given the highest rank, the rank held by Chief of Army Staff.

Ranks in the Indian Army are categorised into three major categories. These are Commissioned officers, Junior Commissioned officers and Non-Commissioned officers. Till now, this is old European structure followed in many countries and as well as in India.

Below are the categories of various ranks of Indian Army in their descending order :

Ranks of Commissioned Officer

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Field Marshal | 2. General | 3. Lieutenant General |
| 4. Major General | 5. Brigadier | 6. Colonel |
| 7. Lieutenant Colonel | 8. Major | 9. Captain |
| 10. Lieutenant | | |

Ranks of Junior Commissioned Officer

- | | | |
|------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1. Subedar Major | 2. Subedar | 3. Naib Subedar |
|------------------|------------|-----------------|

Ranks of Non-Commissioned Officer

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Regimental Havildar Major | 2. Regimental Quarter Master Havildar |
| 3. Company Havildar Major | 4. Company Quarter Master Havildar |
| 5. Havildar | 6. Naik |
| 7. Lance Naik | 8. Sepoy/Sowar |

Field Formations

There are eight field formations in Indian Army namely :

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Commands | 2. Corps |
| 3. Division | 4. Brigade |
| 5. Battalion Regiment | 6. Rifle Company |
| 7. Platoon and | 8. Section |

1. Commands

The Indian Army operates in seven operational commands. Each command is headed by General Officer Commanding-in-Chief with the rank of Lieutenant General and it is directly affiliated to the army headquarters, located in New Delhi. India has second largest army after China. Army Day is celebrated on 15th January.

The various commands are listed below in the order of their rising :

Command	Headquarters
Central Command	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Eastern Command	Kolkata, West Bengal
Northern Command	Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir
Southern Command	Pune, Maharashtra
South-Western Command	Jaipur, Rajasthan
Western Command	Chandimandir, Punjab
Training Command	Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

2. Corps

A corps is a large headquarters responsible for a sector within the jurisdiction of a Command Headquarters. It is the highest field formation in the army. A Corps Headquarters can reallocate from one sector to another or even to another Command Headquarters depending upon operational requirements. Each Command Headquarters has two or more corps under its control. For instance, Northern Command (Headquarters in Udhampur) has three corps zones namely, one in Nagrota (Jammu), the second in Srinagar (Kashmir valley) and the third in Leh (Ladakh). A Corps Headquarters in turn has three or more army divisions under its supervision, depending upon the operational requirements of a corps sector.

Currently, the army has 3 'Strike' corps and 10 'Holding' corps in active service. The principal offensive formations of the Indian Army are the three Strike Corps-1 Corps, (Mathura) 2 Corps (Ambala) and 21 Corps (Bhopal). These are built around a nucleus of a single armoured division and two infantry divisions probably with more mechanised brigades than basic infantry formations.

It also has an artillery brigade, a CAAD (Corps of Army Air Defence) brigade and an engineer brigade. The holding corps, on the other hand, have little support from either the engineers or the CAAD units and do not possess armoured formations larger than brigades.

3. Division

An army division is the largest striking force in the field and has balanced components of arms and services to fight a war in a given terrain. There are five types of army divisions according to operational needs. These include Infantry division, Mountain division, Armoured division Mechanised division and Artillery division. In the Himalayas, tanks or mechanised infantry is not required. Here infantry-based mountain divisions operate, while in Punjab or Rajasthan all the five types of divisions are required.

A division is commanded by a Major General, who is assisted by two principal staff officers. Its main parts include administration, command, strike force, supporting arms and inter-communication.

Presently, the Indian Army has 37 divisions including 4 RAPID (Re-organised Army Plains Infantry Divisions) Action divisions, 18 Infantry divisions, 10 Mountain Divisions, 3 Armoured divisions and 2 Artillery divisions. Each division composes of several brigades.

The RAPID division consists of two Infantry brigades, one Mechanised brigade with brigade-sized mechanised assets, one Artillery brigade, one recon and support battalion, one Engineer regiment, one Signals regiment and vastly improved surveillance with target acquisition equipment and dedicated aviation units.

There are two kinds of RAPID divisions :

- (i) offensive
- (ii) defensive

An Infantry division has about 15500 combat troops, with 8000 support elements (engineers, medical etc). It consists of 3 to 5 Infantry brigades, an Armoured regiment and an Artillery brigade. An Armoured division consists of 3 to 5 Armoured brigades, one Mechanised brigade and one Artillery brigade. It has a strength of 300 to 400 main battle tanks and an equal number of other armoured vehicles, in terms of manpower, an armoured division is much smaller than an infantry division.

4. Brigade

A brigade is the smallest fighting formation of the army, consisting of 3000 combat troops. There are five types of army brigades according to operational needs. These include Infantry/Mountain brigade, Mechanised brigade, Parachute brigade, Armoured brigade and Artillery brigade.

An Infantry brigade is headed by a Brigadier, who is assisted by a brigade Major and staff officers. It consists of three Infantry battalions and depending on the circumstances, detachments of artillery, signals and sappers are provided. An Artillery brigade has 3 to 5 artillery regiments, with 60 to 100 artillery guns. Artillery is being standardised on the 130 mm M-46 Field Gun, adding 120 mm mortars to mortar platoons and incorporating two 30 mm AGS-17 automatic grenade launchers.

Under the 2000 Field Artillery Rationalisation Plan, the army expects to procure 4000 self-propelled and towed howitzers of 155 mm calibre to equip its 200 artillery regiments. This procurement programme is expected to be spread over the next two decades and filled through a combination of outright purchase and licensed manufacture.

Artillery units have very important reconnaissance and observation units, using helicopters and vital meteorological and survey teams. These are important, since the accuracy of artillery fire depends on wind speed/direction, the humidity and an accurate survey of the firing position. All Artillery officers are science graduates specialising in Mathematics and Physics. Artillery units have SATA (Surveillance And Target Acquisition) batteries which have indigenously-manufactured battlefield surveillance radar as well as artillery locating radar. This dramatically enhances the effectiveness of Indian artillery. A number of Israeli-made Remote Piloted Vehicles (RPVs) are being obtained for the targeting of the Prithvi SRBM.

A brigade, when not part of a division and located and designed to function independently, is called an independent brigade. It is provided with additional supporting arms (Artillery, Engineer, Signals etc) and services (Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, etc) units to operate independently for the required task.

5. Battalion/Regiment

It is commanded by a Colonel. The battalion is self-contained and hence, it is the Infantry's main fighting unit. It comprises more than 900 combat personnel. It includes a Second-in-Command and four Company Commanders, with four infantry companies (each with three infantry platoons), plus a support company with mortars, machine guns, anti-tank guided missiles and surface-to-air missiles. Artillery and armoured formations have battalion equivalents called regiments. These regiments are organised in a similar manner. Armoured regiments have three tank squadrons while artillery regiments have between three and four artillery batteries. These formations are of a same size, amounting to approximately 1000 personnel.

6. Rifle Company

It is commanded by a Commissioned Officer, usually a Lieutenant Colonel or Major and has small headquarters. It comprises three infantry platoons with a total strength of 120 soldiers.

7. Platoon

It is headed by a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), usually a Subedar and with a 2-in-C, usually a Havildar. It is a composite fighting unit with its own direct support weapons. Generally consists of three sections of 33 to 36 soldiers.

8. Section

It is the smallest structure of the army commanded by a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), usually a Lance Havildar or a Havildar. It is the Infantry Section or its equivalent in other arms and services. Its strength is normally at 11 Jawans, but under adverse conditions, it may become less.

Field Formations of Indian Army

Fields	Commanded by	Types	Consists of
1. Commands	Lieutenant General	Northern, Central, Eastern, Southern, South-Western, Western, Training command	2 or more corps
2. Corps	Lieutenant General	-3 'Strike' corps -10 'Holding' corps	3-4 army divisions
3. Division	Major General	37 divisions, including 4 RAPID divisions	3-5 infantry brigades
4. Brigade	Brigadier	5 brigades-infantry/ mountain, mechanised, parachute, armoured, artillery.	3000 combat troops
5. Battalion Regiment	Colonel	Artillery and armoured formations.	4 Rifle companies/more than 900 combat forces.
6. Rifle Company	Lieutenant Colonel or Major	—	3 infantry platoons with strength of 120 soldiers
7. Platoon	Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) usually Subedar.	Fighting unit	3 sections of 33 to 36 soldiers
8. Section	Lance Havildar/ Havildar	—	11 Jawans (smallest component)

Indian Army Regiments

Artillery, Armoured and Infantry are the main Indian Army Regiments. Detailed description of the Regiments is discussed below :

Artillery Regiment

The Artillery Regiment is the second largest arm of the Indian Army and constitutes almost one-sixth of its total strength, with the units being organised on a Corps and Divisional basis. Earlier, Artillery was classed as a combat support arm, but now it is classed as a combat arm with priorities shifting between direct support and counter-bombardment.

Its main task is to dominate the battlefield with its immense firepower so that the opponent can neither interfere with the operations nor develop their own effectively. The artillery has proved its battle winning capabilities during the Kargil War. It is in the forefront of fighting in Siachen, the highest battlefield in the world. During the peace time, it undertakes counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and in the North-East (Assam, Manipur and Nagaland). The Artillery centre is located at Nasik, Maharashtra. The regiment has celebrated its 175th anniversary in 2002. The important examples include 9th Parachute Field Regiment, 11th Field Regiment, 861 Regiment Armed with Brahmos, 170 Medium Regiment (Veer Rajput) and so on.

Armoured Regiment

There are around 93 fields of Armoured Regiments in Indian Army. From the 65th Armoured Regiment onwards, the term 'Cavalry' and 'Lancer' was dispensed with and all subsequent raisings are termed as Armoured Regiment. Most of the regiments have or have had, independent reconnaissance squadrons which are a combination of tanks or armoured cars, infantry, and heavy mortars. These serve as reconnaissance units for armoured divisions, independent armoured brigades and other formations. These include President's Bodyguards, 1st Horse or Skinner's Horse, 2nd Lancers, 4th Horse or Hodson's Horse, 7th Cavalry, 21st Central India Horse and so on.

Infantry Regiment

The infantry regiment is the largest element of the infantry division. It is a military organisation, not a field formation. Not all the battalions of an infantry regiment fight together as one formation, but are dispersed over various formations such as brigades, divisions and corps. Its tactical actions and movements are coordinated with those of other divisions. The division commander assigns its mission.

The infantry regiments engage and destroy the enemy in close combat during the assault or hold its position during the defence. They are equipped, organised and trained to use weapons of close combat to support its assault weapons with heavier fires and to provide limited administrative support for its units. The infantry regiments are completely air transportable, with the exception of tanks, the tank recovery vehicle, and the utility armoured vehicle. The recruitment in infantry regiments is based on various selection criteria. It may include geographical location, e.g., Punjab Regiment, as a selection criterion. Some regimental recruitment is unique to India with some regiment's recruitment pool falling on religion, caste, ethnicity or religion such as, Sikh Regiments, Jat Regiments and Gorkha Regiments respectively.

Infantry Regiments in Order of Precedence

- Brigade of the Guards
- Parachute Regiment
- Mechanised Infantry Regiment
- Punjab Regiment
- Madras Regiment
- Grenadiers Regiment
- Maratha Light Infantry
- Rajputana Rifles
- Rajput Regiment
- Jat Regiment
- Sikh Regiment
- Sikh Light Infantry
- Dogra Regiment
- The Garhwal Rifles
- Kumaon Regiment
- Assam Regiment
- Bihar Regiment
- Mahar Regiment
- Jammu and Kashmir Rifles
- Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry
- Naga Regiment
- Gorkha Rifles
- The Ladakh Scouts
- Rashtriya Rifles
- Arunachal Scouts
- Sikkim Rifles

The Infantry School

The oldest and largest training centre of the Indian Army is located at Mhow. Since its inception, it has trained infantrymen, soldiers, officers and senior commanders of Indian and many foreign armies. Its students have risen to the highest military ranks and have made military history in India and abroad. The total number of students trained annually at the school, averages approximately 7500.

Indian Army Data

The data regarding Indian Army which includes small arms, artillery, combat, explosive and rockets is tabulated below :

Small Arms

Name	Type	Calibre	Origin
Pistol Auto 9 mm 1A	Semi-automatic pistol	9 × 19 mm Parabellum	Canada, India
Glock 17	Semi-automatic pistol	9 × 19 mm Parabellum	Austria
Brugger and Thomet MP9	Machine pistol	9 × 19 mm Parabellum	Switzerland
Modern Sub-machine Carbine	Sub-machine gun and personal defence weapon	5.56 × 30 mm MINSAS	India
SAF Carbine 2A1	Sub-machine gun	9 × 19 mm Parabellum	India, United Kingdom
Micro-Uzi	Sub-machine gun	9 × 19 mm Parabellum	Israel
Heckler and Koch MP5	Sub-machine gun	9 × 19 mm Parabellum	Germany
Ishapore 2A1 Rifle	Reserve weapon	7.62 × 51 mm NATO	India
AKM	Assault rifle	7.62 × 51 × 39 mm	Soviet Union Poland Germany
Dragunov SVD59	Sniper rifle	7.62 × 54 mm	Soviet Union India
M2 Browning	Heavy machine gun	.50 BMG	United States
Multi Calibre Individual Weapon System	Assault Rifle	7.62 × 39 mm	India

Artillery

Name	Type	Quantity	Origin
DRDO 155 mm artillery gun	Howitzer	119	India
Dhanush	Howitzer	114	India
75 mm Mountain Howitzer	Howitzer	900	United Kingdom
Indian Field Gun MK 1/2/3	Field gun	1700	India
OTO Melara Mod 56	Mountain gun	50	Italy
M-46 Catapult	Self-propelled artillery	100	India
BM-21	Multiple rocket launcher	150 +	Soviet Union
2S1 Gvozdika	Self-propelled artillery	110	Soviet Union
Sprut	Anti-tank gun		Soviet Union
Smerch 9K 58 MBRL	Multiple rocket launcher	62	Russia
180 mm Gun S-23	Heavy gun	100	Soviet Union
M-777	Ultra-Light Howitzer	149	USA
Pinaka MBRL	Multiple rocket launcher	80 +	India

Combat

Name	Type	Quantity	Origin
Arjun MBT	Main battle tank	12Gmk1 and 118 mk2 ordered	India
T-90S 'Bhishma'	Main battle tank	1250	Russia, India
T-55	Main battle tank		Soviet Union
Vijayanta	Main battle tank		India, United Kingdom
PT-76	Amphibious light tank		Soviet Union
BMP-1	Infantry fighting vehicle	700	India, Soviet Union
BMD-2	Airborne infantry fighting vehicle		Soviet Union
BRDM-2	Tank destroyer		Soviet Union
Ferret	Reconnaissance vehicle	100	United Kingdom
NAMICA	Tank destroyer	13 + 200	
TATA LAMV	Light Armoured Multipurpose vehicle	Under development	India

Explosives and Rockets

Name	Type	Quantity	Origin
Grenade 36 mm	Hand grenade		India
Multi Mode Grenade Shivalik	Hand grenade	1.8 million ordered	India
106 mm M-40 A1	Recoilless rifle	3000 +	United States
RPG-7	Rocket propelled grenade (40 mm)		Soviet Union
OFB E1 51mm	Mortar		India
120 mm AM-50	Mortar HEbomb	1500 +	France
Shipon	Rocket launcher (82 mm)		Israel
30 mm Auto Grenade Launcher	Automatic grenade launcher (30 mm)		India
RCL Mk II	Recoilless rifle (84 mm)		India, Sweden
160 mm Tampella	Mortar	200 +	Finland

Latest Developments

Latest developments in Indian Army are as follows :

Mountain Strike Corps

Indian Cabinet cleared about 34,000 strong Mountain Strike Corps with two independent infantry and armoured brigade, operating along the entire Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

The 17th Strike Corps will be headquartered at Panagarh in West Bengal. This is aimed to boast of “rapid reaction force capability in mountains” and will be able to strike deep in Tibet in case of Chinese incursions in Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims is its own territory.

Agni V

In January, 2015 India tested for the third time its over 5000 km Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) successfully off the Odisha coast. The ICBM adds to the national pride and is aimed towards defending any aggressive moves by its Northern neighbour.

It has incorporated some indigenous technologies like state of the art avionics, composite rocket motor, laser Gyro-based Inertial navigation system, 5th generation on board computer distributed architecture, micro-navigation system and the re-entry kit shield.

Agni VI

It is an Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) being developed by the DRDO for the use of the Indian defence.

It is to be the latest and most advanced missile among the Agni Missile Programmes. It will be capable of being launched from submarines as well as land and will have a strike range of 8000-10000 km with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRV) warheads.

Akash Weapon System

It was inducted into the Indian Army on 5th May, 2015. It is an indigenously developed supersonic short range surface to air missile system with the capability to engage a wide variety of aerial threats line aircraft, helicopters and UAVs upto a maximum range of 25 kms and upto an altitude of 20 kms with 96% indigenous content, the state of the art weapon system is a glowing manifestation of the Prime Minister's 'Make in- India' initiative.

Rudra Handed Over

Rudra, the first indigenously developed chopper, was given to the Indian army on 8th February, 2013. It is the first of 60 armed helicopters, which provided to the army by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

As the first platform of weaponised choppers was important for the army because in the battlefield, fire as well as manoeuvrability need to be integrated closely in order to manage the ground operations. The chopper will be useful in getting this capability. In addition to this, the army planning to induct an overall 60 Rudras, which will be segregated into 6 squadrons. It is armed with the air-to-air missile, Mistral, heavy machine guns as well as rocket pods.

National Cadet Corps (NCC)

The National Cadet Corps was constituted under the NCC Act in 1948. It strives to provide the youth of the country opportunities for all round development with a sense of commitment, dedication, self-discipline and moral values, so that they become useful citizens. The motto of NCC is 'Unity and Discipline'. Directorate General of NCC, located at New Delhi, controls and oversees various activities of the NCC through 17 NCC Directorates spread across the country.

The NCC is headed by a Director General, an Army Officer of the rank of Lieutenant General, who is responsible for the functioning of the NCC in the country and the central advisory committee headed by Minister of State in the Ministry of defence generally advises the GoI on the Constitution and administration of NCC. NCC has three wings namely, Army wing, Naval wing and Air wing. It also has three divisions. These include Senior division (18-26 years), Junior division (13-18 years) and Girls division.

Aims of NCC

- To develop qualities of character, courage, comradeship, discipline, secular outlook, spirit of adventure and sportmanship, besides the ideals of selfless service among the youth to make them useful citizens.
- To create a human resource of organised, trained and motivated youth, in order to provide leadership in all walks of life and be always available for the service of the nation.
- To provide suitable environment to motivate the youth to take up career in armed forces.