



INDIAN ARMY DAY - EVENT

NEWS: *January 15 is commemorated every year as Army Day in India.*

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

- The day marks the historic event when **General K M Cariappa** assumed the role of the **first Indian Commander-in-Chief** of the Indian Army on January 15, 1949, succeeding **General Sir F R R Bucher**, the last British Commander-in-Chief of India.

Theme for Army Day 2025

- The 77th Army Day theme is '**Samarth Bharat, Saksham Sena**' (Capable India, Empowered Army).
- This theme underscores the Army's focus on strengthening national defence and promoting a robust, self-reliant India.

Significant Milestones in 2025

- The parade featured the participation of the **all-women Agniveer contingent**, showcasing India's commitment to gender inclusion in defence.
- The **Army Day Parade** was hosted in **Pune** for the first time, symbolizing decentralization and recognizing the city's military prominence.
- Pune became the **third city** to host this prestigious event outside New Delhi, following Bengaluru in 2023.

Pune: The Strategic Hub of Indian Defence

1. Historical and Symbolic Importance

- Pune's **military heritage** dates back to the Maratha Empire, highlighting its long-standing association with defence and military culture.
- Hosting the parade here reflects the city's historical and contemporary contributions to India's armed forces.

2. Significant Defence Establishments in Pune

- **Bombay Engineer Group and Centre:** A premier military engineering centre over 200 years old, which hosted the Army Day Parade.
- **Training Institutes:**
 - **National Defence Academy (NDA):** World-renowned tri-services academy.
 - **Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC):** Key institution for medical training in the armed forces.
 - **College of Military Engineering (CME):** Specializes in technical and engineering training for the military.
 - **Military Intelligence Training School and Depot:** Focused on intelligence operations and strategies.



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- **Defence Research Facilities:**

- **Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE):** Focused on advanced armament systems.
- **High Energy Material Research Laboratory (HEMRL):** Specialized in explosives and propellants.
- **R&D Establishment (Engineers):** Innovates in military engineering solutions.

3. Current Military Relevance

- Pune's strategic significance includes its role as headquarters for the **Southern Command**, a key operational and administrative unit of the Indian Army.
- The city is also a hub for **defence manufacturing and research**, making it integral to India's military advancements.

Year of Defence Reforms (2025)

1. Overview of Reforms

- The Indian government declared 2025 the **Year of Defence Reforms**, emphasizing modernization and efficiency in the armed forces.

2. Focus Areas of Reform

- **Integrated Theatre Commands:**
 - Establishment of integrated theatre commands to enhance tri-services coordination.
 - Objective to streamline operations across the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- **Indigenous Defence Production:**
 - Promote **self-reliance** by fostering indigenous manufacturing capabilities.
 - Leverage local innovation while integrating best practices from advanced global militaries.
- **Simplified Procurement:**
 - Ensure **time-bound procurement** of defence equipment.
 - Reduce bureaucratic hurdles and inefficiencies.

3. Key Objectives

- Optimize **resource utilization**.
- Enhance **collaboration** among stakeholders.
- Cultivate a **sense of pride** in Indian defence culture and capabilities.



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15 January

INDIAN ARMY DAY

Salute to the forces, who unarguably lead the toughest life on this planet.

Field Marshal K M Cariappa: A Legacy of Leadership

1. Early Life

- Born on **January 28, 1899**, in Coorg (Kodagu district), Karnataka.
- Studied at **Central High School, Madikeri**, and later at **Presidency College, Madras**.

2. Career Milestones

- Became the **first Indian Commander-in-Chief** of the Indian Army in 1949.
- Held the prestigious **Field Marshal rank**, which only **Sam Manekshaw** has also achieved.
- Played a pivotal role in modernizing and Indianizing the armed forces post-independence.

3. Global Recognition

- Honoured with the **Order of the Chief Commander of the Legion of Merit** by US President Harry Truman.

4. Philosophy and Vision

- Advocated that the Army serves as the **protector of democracy** and guardian of India's hard-earned freedom.
- Emphasized values like **truth, love, and sacrifice**, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's teachings.



Veterans' Day: Tribute to Armed Forces Veterans

1. Date and Significance

- Celebrated annually on **January 14** to honour the selfless service of armed forces veterans.
- Chosen to commemorate the retirement of Field Marshal K M Cariappa in 1953, marking his transition as India's first official veteran.

2. Inception of Veterans' Day

- Introduced in **2017** as a pan-India event under the Ministry of Defence.
- Aims to salute the dedication and sacrifices of military veterans and their families.

3. Global Comparisons

- **US Veterans Day:** Observed on **November 11**, marking the end of World War I (1918).
- **Anzac Day (Australia and New Zealand):** Held on **April 25**, commemorating soldiers' contributions in wars and peacekeeping missions.

Global and Seasonal Connections

1. Cultural and Global Parallels

- Both Army Day and Veterans' Day align with global traditions of celebrating military contributions (e.g., Armistice Day, Anzac Day).
- These events emphasize the **timeless role of armed forces** in ensuring peace, security, and sovereignty.

2. Relevance to Indian Defence History

- Highlights the evolution of the Indian Army from colonial control to a modern, independent, and empowered force.
- Symbolizes India's strides in defence technology, research, and training.

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