

Creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff

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Source: *PRS India*

The Union Cabinet has approved the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

Background

The creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff was **first recommended by the report of the Group of Ministers on 'Reforming the National Security System' (2001)** to provide single-point military advice to the government. The government expects this reform will enable the armed forces to implement coordinated defence practices and procedures

Key highlights

- The post will be in the **rank of a four-star General**. Further, a **Department of Military Affairs will be constituted under the Ministry of Defence**. This department will be headed by the CDS.
- General Bipin Rawat has been appointed as the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) with effect from December 31, 2019
- **The CDS will be the permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee**. Currently, this position is held by the senior-most Chief of Staff until they retire, and therefore is not permanent.

Functions of CDS

- **Administer the tri-services organizations** (Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force) and act as the **principal military advisor to the Defence Minister** on all tri-services matters. (Note that **CDS will not exercise any military command over the three service**

chiefs.)

- **Function as a military advisor to the Nuclear Command Authority** (authority responsible for command and control of India's nuclear weapons programme).
- **Bring inter-service cooperation in operations,** logistics, transport, communications of the three services.
- **Serve as a member of the defence acquisition council** and defence planning committee.

Role of the Department of Military Affairs

The Department of Military Affairs will deal with:

- Matters related to defence procurement, training and staffing for the services
- Facilitating restructuring of military commands for optimal utilization of resources, and
- Promoting the use of indigenous equipment.