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News: India pays homage to first CDS, wife and 11 other crash victims

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday evening paid last respects to Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, wife and 11 defence personnel who were killed in the Mi-17V5 helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu.
- General Bipin Rawat was the first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of India.

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

- The Chief of Defence Staff of the Indian Armed Forces is the **head and the highest-ranking officer of the Indian Armed Forces.**
- The President of India is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. The Chief of Defence is the military's chief executive with operational and strategic authority over the defence forces and not its commander.
- The Chief of Defence Staff is a **four-star officer chosen among the ranks of officers currently serving in the Indian Armed Forces.**
- CDS has membership in offices of **Chiefs of Staff Committee, National Security Council (NSC), Defence Acquisition Council (chaired by Defence Minister), Defence Planning Committee (chaired by National Security**

Advisor), Nuclear Command Authority (NCA), Defence Cyber Agency and Defence Space Agency.

- CDS is appointed by the Cabinet Committee on Appointments (CCA).
- The Chief of Defence Staff will be responsible for the newly created Department of Military Affairs (DMA), which would come under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defence.
- They hold a term of 3 years or 65 years of age, whichever is earlier.
- The post was created on December 2019 and General Bipin Rawat is the first CDS of India.
- The Chief of Defence Staff is described as the 'first among equals' among the service chiefs.
- The task of Chief of Defence Staff is to better standardize weapons procurement procedures and combining operations of the Army, Air Force and Navy.
- The Chief of Defence Staff has the authority to create theatre commands as and when needed.
- Command tri-service agencies, organisations, and commands including those related to cyber and space.
- Bring about jointness and ensure optimal utilisation of infrastructure in the three Services.

- Implement a **Five-Year Defence Capital Acquisition Plan (DCAP)**, and Two-Year roll-on Annual Acquisition Plans (AAP), as a follow up of Integrated Capability Development Plan (ICDP).
- **Assign inter-Services prioritisation** to capital acquisition proposals.
- The Chief of Defence Staff' **salary and perquisites will be the same as the service chiefs**. Its details will **come under the Right to Information Act**.

History of the Chief of Defence Staff

- Although the idea of the creation of the Chief of Defence Staff position has been floated post the independence of India, it was **officially suggested through the recommendation of the Kargil Review Committee after the end of the Kargil War** (which ended on July 26, 1999).
- Subsequent commissions such as the **Naresh Chandra task force in 2012** and the **Lieutenant General D.B. Shekatkar Committee in 2016** had also proposed their own versions of a Chief of Defence Staff position.
- On his **independence day speech on August 15 2019**, Prime Minister Narendra **Modi announced the creation** of the Chief of Defence Staff.
- A **formal statement was issued by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on 24 December 2019** about the creation of the Chief of Defence Staff.