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Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth Appointed Next Chief of the Army Staff

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Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth Appointed Next Chief of the Army Staff

The Indian Army has a new chief. On 30 June 2026, General Dhiraj Seth took charge and General Upendra Dwivedi retired.

This lesson covers the handover, the new chief's career and why his appointment stands out.

The idea in brief

- **Chief:** General Dhiraj Seth, 31st COAS.
- **Date:** 30 June 2026.
- **Predecessor:** General Upendra Dwivedi, 30th COAS.
- **Corps:** Armoured Corps, commissioned December 1986.
- **Tenure:** Expected till August 2028.
- **First:** First combat-arm chief since 1997.

A New Army Chief

Who became Chief of the Army Staff on 30 June 2026?

General Dhiraj Seth took charge as Chief of the Army Staff on Tuesday, 30 June 2026. He succeeded General Upendra Dwivedi, who retired the same day.

Dwivedi's career spanned over 40 years.

Sources: etvbharat.com; freepressjournal.in

Which number Chief is he?

Gen Seth is the 31st Chief of the Army Staff. Gen Dwivedi was the 30th.

Sources: etvbharat.com; drishtiias.com

How long will he serve?

His tenure is expected to run until August 2028.

Sources: freepressjournal.in

> **Quick check 1.** Gen Dhiraj Seth took over as Army Chief on 30 June 2026. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Who Is Gen Dhiraj Seth?

What is his background?

He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla. He was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986.

Sources: etvbharat.com; drishtiias.com

What was his post before this?

He was the Vice Chief of the Army Staff from 1 April 2026. Before that he headed the Pune-based Southern Command.

Under him, the Southern Command stayed highly ready during Operation Sindoor.

Sources: etvbharat.com; drishtiias.com

Why is he called an unusual commander?

As an Army Commander, he led the South Western Command in Jaipur and then the Southern Command. Few officers have led two operational commands.

Both lie along the western front.

Sources: etvbharat.com; freepressjournal.in

> **Quick check 2.** Gen Seth is from the Armoured Corps. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Why This Appointment Stands Out

What is the Armoured Corps milestone?

Gen Seth is the first combat-arm officer to head the Army since 1997. General Shankar Roychowdhury held the post then.

He belongs to the Armoured Corps.

Sources: freepressjournal.in

What will he focus on?

Reports point to force modernisation and integrated theatre commands. They also point to border readiness against China and Pakistan.

Sources: freepressjournal.in

> **Quick check 3.** Gen Seth is the first combat-arm officer ever to head the Army. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Exam Traps

Gen Dhiraj Seth became the 31st Chief of the Army Staff on 30 June 2026.

He succeeded Gen Upendra Dwivedi.

His corps is the Armoured Corps (commissioned December 1986).

He led the South Western and Southern Commands.

Expected tenure ends in August 2028.

Practice MCQs

1. Who became India's Chief of the Army Staff on 30 June 2026?

A. Gen Dhiraj Seth

B. Gen Anil Chauhan

C. Gen Upendra Dwivedi

D. Gen Manoj Pande

See answer ↓

2. Which number Chief of the Army Staff is Gen Dhiraj Seth?

A. 30th

B. 32nd

C. 31st

D. 29th

See answer ↓

3. Into which corps was Gen Seth commissioned in December 1986?

A. Corps of Engineers

B. Infantry

C. Artillery

D. Armoured Corps

See answer ↓

4. When did the Armoured Corps last supply an Army Chief?

A. 1987

B. 2007

C. 2017

D. 1997

See answer ↓

5. Which post did Gen Seth hold just before becoming Army Chief?

A. Vice Chief of the Army Staff

B. GOC-in-C Western Command

C. Chief of Defence Staff

D. Director General of Military Operations

See answer ↓

6. Which two commands did Gen Seth head as an Army Commander?

A. Northern and Eastern

B. Eastern and South Western

C. South Western and Southern

D. Central and Western

See answer ↓

7. Until when is Gen Seth's tenure expected to run?

A. June 2029

B. March 2030

C. August 2027

D. August 2028

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **A.** Gen Dhiraj Seth took charge on 30 June 2026 after Gen Upendra Dwivedi retired. ↑ Q1
2. **C.** Gen Seth is the 31st Chief. His predecessor, Gen Dwivedi, was the 30th. ↑ Q2
3. **D.** He was commissioned into the Armoured Corps and is an NDA alumnus. ↑ Q3
4. **D.** He is the first combat-arm Chief since 1997, when Gen Shankar Roychowdhury held the post. ↑ Q4
5. **A.** He became Vice Chief of the Army Staff on 1 April 2026. ↑ Q5
6. **C.** He led the South Western Command in Jaipur and then the Southern Command. ↑ Q6
7. **D.** Reports say his tenure is expected to run until August 2028. ↑ Q7

Quick-check answers

1. **True.** ETV Bharat and the Free Press Journal both report it. ↑ 1
2. **True.** Both reports say he was commissioned into it in December 1986. ↑ 2
3. **False.** He is the first since 1997; General Shankar Roychowdhury held the post then. ↑ 3

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