

GEN. ANIL CHAUHAN ASSUMES CHARGE AS CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

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Paying tribute: Gen. Anil Chauhan laying a wreath at the National War Memorial before taking over as Chief of Defence Staff. PTI

General Anil Chauhan on Friday assumed charge as the country's second Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). The post has been vacant for over nine months since the death of the first CDS Gen Bipin Rawat in a chopper crash in December 2021.

This is the first instance since independence, of a three-star Lieutenant General rank officer taking over as a four-star General after retirement.

Gen. Chauhan laid a wreath at the National War Memorial and later inspected a tri-service Guard of Honour on South Block lawns before formally assuming charge. He later called on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in his South Block office.

Gen. Chauhan has a huge task of taking forward the transformation and reorganisation of the armed forces, stalled due to the death of Gen. Rawat. Top among them is the reorganisation of the military into theatre commands, on which consensus among the military remains elusive even after extensive deliberations over two years.

He was commissioned into the 11 Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army in 1981 and has served a range of staff and operational appointments including that of Director General of Military Operations.

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