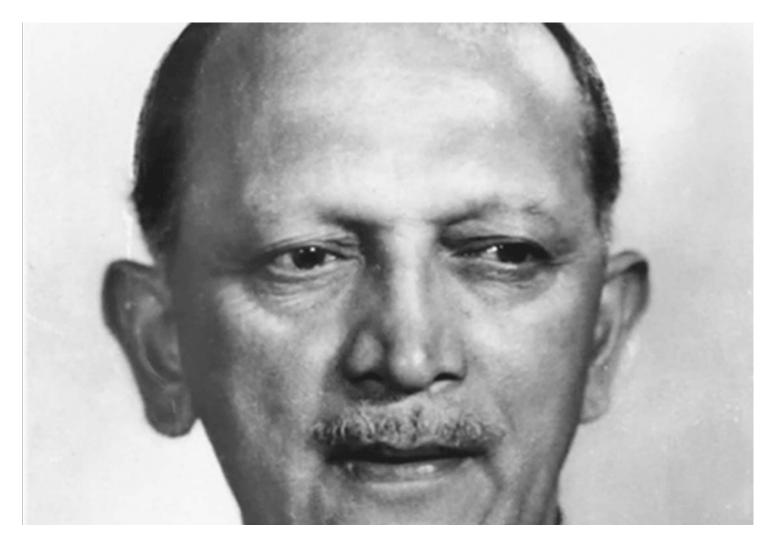


Field Marshal K.M Cariappa

By IASToppers | 2024-01-31 15:50:00



Field Marshal K.M Cariappa

The birth anniversary of Field Marshal Kodandera M. Cariappa, the **first Commander-in-Chief (1949-1953)** of the Indian Army, was commemorated recently on January 28.



[ref-Britannica]

About K.M Cariappa:

• A national hero, Cariappa's leadership played a pivotal role in the **transition of the Indian** military from colonial to independent India.

Early Life and Education:

• Born on January 28, 1899, in Shanivarsanthe, Coorg province (now Kodagu district), into a



farming family of the Kodava clan.

• Nicknamed 'Chimma,' Cariappa's interest in the military was sparked during his studies at Presidency College in Chennai.

Military Journey:

- His distinguished military career spanned almost three decades.
- After World War I, Cariappa, at the age of 19, earned the King's Commission in 1919, becoming part of the **first batch of King's Commissioned Indian Officers (KCIOs).**
- **Daly Cadet College**: Selected for the first batch of KCIOs at **Daly Cadet College** in Indore, where he excelled and graduated as the first Indian cadet.
- He was commissioned as a temporary first lieutenant into the 2/88 Carnatic Infantry.
- He became the first Indian officer to attend the Staff College, Quetta, and later commanded the 1/7 Rajputs, making him the first Indian to lead a battalion.
- He served in various staff roles and commands, eventually becoming the **Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army**.
- Cariappa served in Iraq, Syria, and Iran (1941-1942) and later in Burma (1943-1944), earning accolades for his leadership.
- **Post-Independence Roles:** As the **deputy chief of the general staff**, he played a crucial role in operations like Kipper, Easy, and Bison, focusing on strategic areas in Kashmir.

Legacy and Contributions:

- Military Architect: Cariappa's appointment as the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army was a landmark in India's independent defense sector.
- **Other contributions**: Key contributions include the integration of troops, raising the Brigade of the Guards and Parachute Regiments, and establishing the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Territorial Army (TA).
- **Post-Independence Roles**: Played a pivotal role in the **division of the Indian Army** during the Partition, ensuring an amicable transition.
- **Post-Retirement Service:** After retiring in 1953, he served as the **Indian High Commissioner** to Australia and New Zealand.
- Founder of IESL: In 1964, he founded the Indian Ex-Servicemen's League (IESL) and played a key role in establishing the Directorate of Resettlement.

Honors and Passing:

- Legion of Merit: He was awarded the Legion of Merit in the degree of Chief Commander by the American President Harry S. Truman.
- Order of the British Empire: Cariappa was awarded the Order of the British Empire in June 1945.
- Field Marshal Rank: Awarded the Field Marshal rank on April 28, 1986, in recognition of his outstanding service to the nation.
 - One of the only two Indian Army Field Marshals with the Five-star rank, the other being Sam Manekshaw.
- **Demise:** Cariappa passed away on May 15, 1993, leaving a lasting legacy in India's military history.

