

# Joris van Boven and Alex van Noije visit...



**...Exercise Agni Varsha 2026 at Jaisalmer,  
...The Konark Corps, Jodhpur,  
...Agra HADR and 50th (Independent) Parachute Brigade,  
...Indian Army Aviation Corps,  
...451 Army Aviation Squadron,  
...“Defence Forces Vision 2047”**

## **The Indian Army: An Overview**

The Indian Army stands as one of the world’s foremost land forces — a permanent, professional institution whose mandate extends well beyond the conventional defence of national borders. With approximately 1.45 million active duty personnel, it is ranked among the largest standing armies on the planet and operates under the overarching command of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India. The Army’s field force is structured around fifteen corps, comprising three armoured divisions, four Reorganised Army Plains Infantry Divisions (RAPIDa), eighteen infantry divisions, and ten mountain divisions, in addition to independent brigades and a range of combat-support and service-support formations.



At the strategic level, the Ministry of Defence declared 2025 the “Year of Reforms”, a designation intended to accelerate the integration of the three services under Integrated Theatre Commands (ITCs), streamline defence acquisition procedures, and foster greater collaboration between the military, state owned enterprises, and India’s fast growing private defence sector. The Defence Research and Development