

Daily Defence Current Affairs

07 March 2025

Next Vice Chief of Army Staff

- The Indian Army's top brass is set for a reshuffle from 1 April, with several senior three-star officers moving into key operational commands and the post of Vice Chief of Army Staff.
- Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, currently the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Pune-based Southern Command, will move to Army Headquarters as the Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS).
- An Armoured Corps officer commissioned in December 1986, Lt Gen Seth has held several command and staff appointments during his career.
- Prior to taking charge of Southern Command in July 2024, he commanded the Mathura-based XXI Strike Corps, one of the Army's key strike formations.
- Lt Gen P.P. Singh, currently the Vice Chief of Army Staff, will take over as the Western Army Commander at Chandimandir next month, succeeding Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Katiyar. The Western Command is one of the Army's most critical operational formations, overseeing the Pakistan front.
- An officer of the elite Parachute Regiment (Special Forces), Lt Gen P.P. Singh will be among the few Special Forces officers to head an Army Command.
- Another significant change will see Lt Gen V.M.B. Krishnan, currently serving as the Army's Quartermaster General at Army Headquarters, take over as the Eastern Army Commander from 1 April. The Kolkata-based command oversees operations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in the eastern sector, as well as the borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- Lt Gen Krishnan will succeed Lt Gen Ram Chander Tiwari, who has headed the Eastern Command since January 2024 and will retire later this month.
- An officer of the Dogra Regiment, Lt Gen Krishnan earlier commanded the strategically important XVII Corps, the Army's mountain strike formation raised

for operations along the China front. He has also served as Director General of Information Technology at Army Headquarters.

- Meanwhile, Lt Gen Sandeep Jain, currently the Chief of Staff at Southern Command, will be elevated to take over as the Southern Army Commander in Pune, replacing Lt Gen Seth when he moves to Army Headquarters.
- Lt Gen Jain earlier commanded the Ambala-based II Corps, also known as the Kharga Corps, one of the Army's key strike formations on the western front.



US State Dept Approves \$151 Million Arms Sale to Israel

- The US State Department approved the sale of \$151.8 million worth of munitions to Israel on Friday as the countries engage Iran in an escalating Middle East war.
- The sale of 12,000 requested 1,000-pound (470-kilogram) bomb bodies was approved by the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, according to a press release.
- "The proposed sale will improve Israel's capability to meet current and future threats, strengthen its homeland defense, and serve as a deterrent to regional threats," the bureau said in a statement.

- Israeli airstrikes pounded the capitals of Iran and Lebanon as the U.S. apparently struck an Iranian drone carrier at sea, intensifying its campaign targeting the Islamic Republic's fleet of warships. The United Nations refugee agency said it had declared the crisis in West Asia a major humanitarian emergency, stressing the need for an immediate response.
- Iran launched new retaliatory attacks on early Friday (March 6, 2026) against neighbouring countries that host U.S. forces.



India Allowed Another Iran Ship To Dock

- A day after India said it had launched a search-and-rescue mission after a US submarine attacked an Iranian warship off the coast of Sri Lanka, government sources have revealed that India has allowed another Iranian vessel to dock in Kochi.
- IRIS Dena, a Moudge-class frigate, was torpedoed by a US submarine 40 nautical miles off Galle in southern Sri Lanka on the morning of Wednesday, March 4, while it was returning to Iran after participating in the MILAN multilateral naval exercise. The ship sank as a result of the attack and Sri Lanka said it had recovered the bodies of 87 people.
- Sources said on Friday that another ship, the IRIS Lavan, was also in the region in connection with the exercise and the International Fleet Review. Iran, they said, approached India to "take in" the amphibious ship on February 28, the day Israel and the US launched their strikes on the Middle-Eastern country, killing Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

- The request was approved a day later, on March 1, and the ship docked in Kochi on Wednesday, the day IRIS Dena was attacked. All 183 crew members of the IRIS Lavan, the sources said, are currently residing in naval facilities in the area.
- "The request was received on 28 February 2026, indicating that a docking at Kochi was urgent as the vessel had developed technical issues. Approval was accorded for the docking on 1 March. IRIS Lavan has since docked at Kochi on 4 March. In this context, its crew of 183 are currently accommodated at naval facilities in Kochi," said a source.
- After the IRIS Dena was attacked, several Opposition parties questioned the Centre's silence on the matter and said it was an "abdication of India's responsibilities as a maritime power". The sailors, the Congress said, were "honoured guests of India".



'West Asia tensions may impact economy and trade': Rajnath Singh

- Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Friday termed the geopolitical tensions in West Asia "highly unusual" and cautioned that it could adversely impact global economy and trade considering the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz and Persian Gulf.
- "In the changing geopolitics, oceans have once again become the centre of the world's power balance," said Singh. "India as a major maritime nation should provide leadership with confidence and capability and clear vision," he said, referring to the simmering conflict in West Asia. Singh was speaking at a programme co-hosted by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers here.

- "What is happening in West Asia is highly unusual," he said. "It is difficult to make any firm comment at this stage on the direction in which West Asia might proceed. The maritime domains have changed, and its importance has increased and it is not limited to trade routes or naval strength but linked to national and technological innovation, the foundation of strategic autonomy." Singh said the Hormuz or the Persian Gulf region is "an extremely important area for the world's energy security".
- "When there is disturbance or disruption in this region, it directly impacts the supply of oil and gas," he said. "Supply chain disruptions will be there in other sectors. It will impact global trade and economy," said Singh, terming the current situation in West Asia as "complicated".



57th Raising Day Ceremony of CISF

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah addressed the 57th Raising Day ceremony of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) as the Chief Guest today in Mundali, Odisha.
- Union Home Minister lays the foundation stone for three residential complexes (Kamrup, Nashik and Sehore) of the CISF to be built at a cost of ₹890 crore, and inaugurated two residential complexes (Rajarhat and Delhi).
- The Central Industrial Security Force is a central armed police force in India, under the Ministry of Home Affairs. CISF's primary mission is to provide security policing services to large institutions, whether state-owned or privately owned.
- The CISF is headed by an Indian Police Service officer with the rank of Director-General, assisted by an IPS officer in the rank of Addl. Director-General. The force is divided into Nine Sectors (Airport, North, North-East, East, West, South, Training, South-East, Central) and also has a Fire Service Wing.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who has been appointed as the next Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) of India from 1 April?

- A. Lt Gen P.P. Singh
- B. Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth
- C. Lt Gen V.M.B. Krishnan
- D. Lt Gen Sandeep Jain

Answer: B. Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth

2. Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth belongs to which regiment/corps of the Indian Army?

- A. Dogra Regiment
- B. Sikh Regiment
- C. Armoured Corps
- D. Parachute Regiment

Answer: C. Armoured Corps

3. Which Army Command is responsible for overseeing operations along the India–Pakistan border?

- A. Eastern Command**
- B. Western Command**
- C. Southern Command**
- D. Central Command**

Answer: B. Western Command

4. Which elite regiment does Lt Gen P.P. Singh belong to?

- A. Rajput Regiment**
- B. Gorkha Regiment**
- C. Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)**
- D. Jat Regiment**

Answer: C. Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)

5. Which Army Command oversees the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in the eastern sector?

- A. Northern Command**
- B. Eastern Command**
- C. Southern Command**
- D. Central Command**

Answer: B. Eastern Command

6. Lt Gen V.M.B. Krishnan earlier commanded which mountain strike formation of the Indian Army?

- A. XIV Corps**
- B. XVII Corps**
- C. III Corps**
- D. XV Corps**

Answer: B. XVII Corps

7. The United States recently approved an arms sale worth \$151.8 million to which country?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Israel
- C. Jordan
- D. UAE

Answer: B. Israel

8. Which Iranian naval ship was attacked off the coast of Sri Lanka while returning from the MILAN naval exercise?

- A. IRIS Lavan
- B. IRIS Dena
- C. IRIS Alborz
- D. IRIS Sahand

Answer: B. IRIS Dena

9. The Iranian amphibious ship allowed to dock in India was:

- A. IRIS Dena
- B. IRIS Alvand
- C. IRIS Lavan
- D. IRIS Jamaran

Answer: C. IRIS Lavan

10. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) functions under which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Defence
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of External Affairs
- D. Ministry of Civil Aviation

Answer: B. Ministry of Home Affairs

11. __Himalayan pass is situated b/w India and China.

- A. Shenkota
- B. Thalghat

- C. Bhorghat
- D. Shipki La

ANSWER: D

12. AMCA Stands For

- A. Advanced Medium Cockpit Aircraft
- B. Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft
- C. Advanced Motor Combat Aircraft
- D. Advanced Machine Combat Aircraft

ANSWER: B

13. Wartime Gallantry Award Is/Are

- A. Param Vir Chakra
- B. Maha Vir Chakra
- C. Ashok Chakra
- D. Both a & b

ANSWER: D

14. Military College of Telecommunication Engineering Is At

- A. Gopalpur
- B. Mhow
- C. Pune
- D. Haridwar

ANSWER: B

15. “Bolo Hindustan Ki Jay” Is The War Cry Of

- A. JKRF
- B. RR
- C. MAHAR REGIMENT
- D. JKLIR

ANSWER: C

16. Quito Is The Capital Of

- A. Ecuador
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Ethiopia

ANSWER: A

17. "The Earth spinner" Book Is Written By

- A. Brisha Jain
- B. Sanjay Gubbi
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Anuradha Roy

ANSWER: D

18. Which country hosted the G7 summit in 2025?

- A. United Kingdom
- B. Japan
- C. Germany
- D. Canada

ANSWER: D

19. Joint Exercises B/w The India And Japan Is Called:

- A. Shinyuu Maitri
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: A

20. Motto of Territorial Army Is

- A. Rhino Charge
- B. Duty Unto Death
- C. Valour
- D. Savdhani Va Shoorta

ANSWER: D