

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 02 April 2026

### INS Malwan Delivered

- India has taken delivery of 'Malwan', the second of eight anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASW SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, on March 31, 2026, marking another step in strengthening indigenous naval capabilities.
- Designed and constructed in India to naval specifications and in line with DNV classification rules, the vessel underscores the country's push for self-reliance, with over 80% indigenous content.
- These vessels are compact yet potent platforms designed to detect, track and neutralise underwater threats close to India's coastline. 'Malwan' is the second vessel in a planned series of eight under a Ministry of Defence-approved programme aimed at replacing older Abhay-class corvettes and modernising the naval fleet.
- Named after the historic coastal town of Malwan in Maharashtra, associated with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's maritime legacy, the ship also carries forward the lineage of the erstwhile INS Malwan, a minesweeper that served until 2003.
- Length: Around 80 metres
- Displacement: About 1,100 tonnes
- Propulsion: Waterjet system for high agility
- Weapons: Lightweight torpedoes and anti-submarine rockets
- Sensors: Advanced sonar systems and radars
- Operations: Anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare and surveillance
- 'Malwan' follows INS Mahe, delivered in October 2025, as part of an eight-vessel series that includes **Mahe, Malwan, Mangrol, Malpe, Mulki, Munroe, Makkah**

**and Mandavi.** This fleet is expected to play a key role in strengthening India's coastal defence network.



## New Vice Chief of Army Staff

- Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth, who helmed the Southern Command during Operation Sindoor last year, took charge as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff. The decorated military officer succeeds Lt Gen. Pushpendra Singh.
- Lt Gen. Seth served as the 51st general officer commanding-in-chief of the elite Southern Command from July 1, 2024, to March 31 this year. When India carried out Operation Sindoor -- the decisive military action in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack -- last year, Lt Gen. Seth was at the helm of the Southern Command.



**BEL Secures ₹6,795 Crore Orders**

- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a Navratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking, has secured fresh orders totalling ₹6,795 crore, bolstering its order book since the previous disclosure on 30 March 2026.
- The company made this announcement via a press release filed under Regulation 30 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. This influx of contracts underscores BEL's pivotal role in India's defence ecosystem.
- The order portfolio encompasses a wide array of defence equipment and services. Key highlights include mountain radars supplied to the Ministry of Defence, avionics packages for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) from HAL and a major export order for communication equipment.
- Additional components comprise electronic fuses for advanced ammunition, strategic elements for vital defence applications, upgrades for legacy systems, and comprehensive spare parts with maintenance services.



## **INS Shachi Launched, ICGS Achal Delivered**

- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), a leading Defence Public Sector Undertaking under India's Ministry of Defence, has achieved a remarkable dual milestone that bolsters the nation's maritime prowess.

- On 31 March 2026, the shipyard in Vasco da Gama, Goa, ceremonially launched the Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) INS Shachi (Yard 1280) for the Indian Navy.
- This event was swiftly followed by the successful delivery of the Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Achal (Yard 1274) to the Indian Coast Guard.
- The launch of INS Shachi, a pivotal asset in the Indian Navy's NGOPV programme, was gracefully performed by Smt. Shagun Sobti.
- Over the past 600 days, GSL has launched 14 vessels, achieving an average of one launch every 40 to 43 days. This extraordinary pace demonstrates the yard's bolstered industrial capacity, optimised processes, and steadfast dedication to delivering intricate maritime platforms on schedule.
- Both vessels embody India's escalating prowess in indigenous defence manufacturing. ICGS Achal boasts over 65 per cent indigenous content, while INS Shachi integrates approximately 76 per cent local components.
- These include indigenous designs, cutting-edge engineering, and systems procured from Indian industries.



## **GE Delivers Sixth F404 Engine To HAL**

- American aviation giant GE Aerospace has officially handed over the sixth F404-IN20 engine to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the TEJAS MK-1A fighter program.
- This delivery marks a significant but slow progress point, as only six engines reached HAL during the fiscal year ending this Tuesday. This figure remains well below the eleven units originally promised under the revised delivery schedule.

- “GE Aerospace has handed over the sixth F404-IN20 engine against the order from 2021. GE Aerospace and HAL continue to work closely to ensure clear line of sight of production schedules for the F404 engines,” read a statement by a spokesperson for GE Aerospace.
- While GE confirmed the handover of the sixth engine against the 2021 contract, sources within HAL indicate that the hardware has not yet physically arrived in India.
- It is believed the formal transfer of the unit likely took place at a facility in the United States. Both organisations maintain that they are working in close coordination to establish a clearer production and shipping timeline for the remaining powerplants.
- Defence establishment sources suggest that the ongoing conflict involving the US, Israel, and Iran has been cited as a primary factor for the supply chain disruptions.
- These geopolitical tensions in the Gulf region have reportedly hampered the delivery of critical components, leading to the current backlog in the 99-engine contract signed five years ago.
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## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. INS Malwan is primarily designed for which role?**

- A. Air defence operations
- B. Anti-submarine warfare in coastal areas
- C. Aircraft carrier escort
- D. Amphibious assault operations

**ANSWER: B**

**2. INS Malwan has been built by which organization?**

- A. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- B. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- C. Cochin Shipyard Limited
- D. Hindustan Shipyard Limited

**ANSWER: C**

**3. Who has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff?**

- A. Lt Gen Manoj Pande
- B. Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth
- C. Lt Gen Bipin Rawat
- D. Lt Gen Anil Chauhan

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) secured new orders worth approximately:**

- A. ₹3,500 crore
- B. ₹5,200 crore
- C. ₹6,795 crore
- D. ₹8,100 crore

**ANSWER: C**

**5. The F404-IN20 engines delivered by GE Aerospace are meant for which aircraft?**

- A. Sukhoi Su-30MKI
- B. Rafale
- C. Tejas Mk-1A
- D. Mirage 2000

**ANSWER: C**

**6. Which countries are part of the AUKUS program?**

- A. India, United States, and Australia
- B. United Kingdom, Australia, and United States
- C. United Kingdom, China, and Australia
- D. India, China, and Australia

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Goodwill Ambassador Of 'Maa Bharati Ke Sapoot' Is**

- A. Akshay Kumar
- B. Neeraj Chopra
- C. P V Sindhu
- D. Amitabh Bachchan

**ANSWER: D**

**8. Helicopter Training School Is Located At**

- A. Hakimpet, Telangana
- B. Chennai, T.N.
- C. Noida, U.P.
- D. None

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Wing Commander Rank Of IAF Is Equivalent to \_\_ Rank of Indian Navy.**

- A. Commander
- B. Lieutenant

- C. Admiral
- D. Captain

**ANSWER: A**

**10. Joint Exercise B/w India And Japan Is Called:**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**11. "Home in the World" Book Written By**

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Sitaram Yechuri
- C. Amartya Sen
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

**ANSWER: C**

**12. Motto Of the Territorial Army Is**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**13. Army Dental Corps Centre Located At**

- A. Lucknow
- B. Pune
- C. Mumbai
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Veera Madrasi, Adi Kollu, Adi Kollu Is The War Cry Of**

- A. MECHANISED INFANTRY REGIMENT
- B. THE BRIGADE OF THE GUARDS
- C. MADRAS REGIMENT
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**15. RATS Stands For**

- A. Regional Anti-Terrorist Student
- B. Regional Anti-Terror Structure
- C. Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure
- D. Regional Anti-Tourist Structure

**ANSWER: C**

**16. Raytheon Technologies Is A Company Of Which Nation**

- A. Taiwan
- B. China
- C. USA
- D. None of the Above

**ANSWER: C**

**17. Mundra Port Is In**

- A. M.H.
- B. Kerala
- C. UP
- D. Gujrat

**ANSWER: D**

**18. Air India One Manufactured By**

- A. India
- B. Japan
- C. France
- D. USA

**ANSWER: D**

**19. Joint Exercises B/w India And Indonesia Is Called:**

- A. Garuda Shakti
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

**ANSWER: A**

**20. Joint Exercises B/w India And USA Is Called:**

- A. Garuda Shakti
- B. SLINEX

- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

**ANSWER: D**