

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 02 June 2026

### India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue 2026

- India and Australia have taken another significant step towards strengthening their strategic partnership by holding the second edition of the India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue in New Delhi on June 1, 2026. The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles.
- The dialogue reflected the growing trust and cooperation between the two nations and reviewed the progress achieved since the inaugural meeting held in October 2025. Both leaders reiterated their commitment to enhancing defence ties and contributing to regional peace, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Focus on Maritime Security**
- Maritime security emerged as one of the key areas of discussion during the dialogue. India and Australia reviewed ongoing efforts to finalize a Joint Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap aimed at strengthening cooperation in the maritime domain.
- The two countries agreed to expand maritime domain awareness activities through the deployment of maritime patrol aircraft and explore opportunities for improving undersea surveillance capabilities. They also encouraged closer collaboration between the Indian Coast Guard and Australia's Maritime Border Command to enhance maritime security and law enforcement cooperation.
- Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring a free, open, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. They emphasized the importance of freedom of navigation, overflight rights, and uninterrupted trade routes in accordance with international law, particularly the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- **Joint Initiatives in the Indian Ocean Region**

- As co-leads of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security, India and Australia announced plans to jointly host a Search and Rescue and Tabletop Exercise at the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Chennai in June 2026.
- The initiative is expected to strengthen maritime safety mechanisms and improve coordination among regional partners in the Indian Ocean Region. Both nations also agreed to enhance operational interoperability by building upon the Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement signed in 2020 and continue aircraft deployments from each other's territories.
- **Expanding Defence Industrial Collaboration**
- A major outcome of the dialogue was the decision to begin work on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning the provision of defence articles and defence services. This initiative is expected to deepen defence industrial cooperation and create new opportunities for collaboration between defence industries of both countries.
- The ministers welcomed Australia's first Defence Trade Mission to India and the Australia-India Defence Industry Roundtable held in 2025. Both nations agreed to further strengthen engagement through the Joint Working Group on Defence Industry, Research, and Materiel.
- **Cooperation in Science and Technology**
- Recognizing the importance of emerging technologies in modern warfare, both countries expressed interest in expanding defence science and technology collaboration. Future cooperation is expected to focus on advanced fields such as sensor technologies and defence innovation.
- Australia also invited India to participate in the Australian Defence Science, Technology and Research Summit 2026, which will provide a platform for collaboration among researchers, scientists, and defence experts.
- **Enhanced Military Exercises and Operational Cooperation**
- The ministers appreciated the increasing interaction between the armed forces of both nations. They reviewed successful participation in several military exercises, including:
- Exercise Milan 2026 hosted by India.

- Exercise Kakadu 2026 hosted by Australia.
- Exercise Austrahind, which has evolved to include amphibious combat and littoral manoeuvre operations.
- Exercise Pitch Black, where both sides aim to operationalize the bilateral Air-to-Air Refuelling Arrangement.
- Australia also welcomed India's first participation in Operation Render Safe 2026, while India accepted Australia's invitation to participate in the submarine rescue exercise Black Carillon.
- The two countries also discussed enhancing information-sharing mechanisms between operational headquarters and looked forward to conducting the inaugural Joint Staff Talks later in the year.
- **Strengthening Defence Training and Professional Exchanges**
- To improve military-to-military engagement, both sides encouraged officials to finalize arrangements for deploying an Indian instructor to the Australian Defence College during 2028-29. The initiative aims to enhance professional education, strategic understanding, and knowledge exchange between the defence establishments of both countries.
- **Quad Cooperation and Maritime Domain Awareness**
- India and Australia reaffirmed their support for the Quad framework involving Australia, India, Japan, and the United States. The ministers highlighted the growing strategic convergence among Quad partners in maintaining regional stability.
- Both sides expressed strong support for the Quad Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration initiative. They also welcomed India's operationalization of the Indian Ocean Region programme under the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness through the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram.
- The two countries agreed to work toward developing a Common Operational Picture across the Indo-Pacific by integrating existing maritime domain awareness initiatives and enhancing information-sharing networks.



## Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry Assumes Command of Central Air Command

- Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry, AVSM, VSM, assumed charge as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Central Air Command of the Indian Air Force on June 1, 2026. With a distinguished military career spanning more than three decades, he brings extensive operational, administrative, and diplomatic experience to one of the Indian Air Force's most important commands.
- Commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force in December 1989, Air Marshal Chaudhry has served in a variety of key appointments throughout his career. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA), Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), College of Air Warfare, and the National Defence College (NDC), institutions known for producing senior military leaders of the country.
- **Diverse Operational and Staff Experience**
- Over the years, Air Marshal Chaudhry has held several significant operational, staff, and diplomatic assignments. One of his notable international postings was as Defence Attaché at the Embassy of India in Sweden. During this tenure, he was concurrently accredited to Norway, Finland, and Denmark, strengthening India's defence engagement with the Nordic region.
- At the strategic level, he has served in important appointments at Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) and Air Headquarters. His areas of specialization include defence projects, acquisition planning, modernization initiatives, and human resource management.

- **Contribution to Modernization of the Indian Air Force**
- Air Marshal Chaudhry has played a major role in driving modernization efforts within the Indian Air Force. He has led several transformative projects focused on enhancing operational capabilities and integrating advanced technologies into the force structure.
- His contributions have supported the induction of future-ready systems and strengthened the combat preparedness of the Indian Air Force in an evolving security environment.
- **Previous Appointment**
- Before assuming command of the Central Air Command, Air Marshal Chaudhry was serving as the Senior Air Staff Officer at Headquarters Southern Air Command. In this role, he was responsible for overseeing operational planning, training, and preparedness across a strategically important region.
- **Leadership Transition**
- Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry succeeds Air Marshal Balakrishnan Manikantan, PVSM, AVSM, VM, who retired from service on May 31, 2026. Air Marshal Manikantan completed four decades of distinguished service to the nation and made significant contributions to the operational readiness and growth of the Indian Air Force.
- **Significance of Central Air Command**
- The Central Air Command is one of the seven operational commands of the Indian Air Force and plays a crucial role in safeguarding India's airspace across the central sector. The command is responsible for maintaining operational readiness, supporting air operations, and ensuring rapid response capabilities during emergencies and contingencies.
- With Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry at its helm, the Central Air Command is expected to continue strengthening its operational effectiveness while supporting the Indian Air Force's modernization and capability enhancement goals.



## Maj Gen Rachel Thomas Assumes The Appointment of ADG, MNS

- Major General Rachel Thomas assumed the appointment of **Additional Director General (ADG), Military Nursing Service (MNS)** on June 1, 2026. Her appointment marks an important leadership transition within the Armed Forces Medical Services, reflecting the continued contribution of the Military Nursing Service in strengthening military healthcare across the country.
- She succeeds Major General Lissamma P.V., who retired from service on May 31, 2026, after completing four decades of dedicated and distinguished service to the nation.
- **Educational Background and Commissioning**
- Major General Rachel Thomas is an alumna of the prestigious College of Nursing at the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune, one of India's premier institutions for military medical education and training.
- She was commissioned into the Military Nursing Service on June 1, 1988, beginning a career that spanned nearly four decades of exemplary service in military healthcare.
- **Distinguished Professional Career**

- Throughout her long and accomplished career, Major General Thomas has served in a variety of important clinical and administrative roles across several military hospitals under the Armed Forces Medical Services.
- Her professional experience includes postings at major military healthcare institutions as well as hospitals located in strategically sensitive border regions under the Northern and Eastern Commands. These assignments have provided her with extensive exposure to healthcare management, patient care, operational medical support, and leadership responsibilities in diverse environments.
- Her contributions have played a significant role in maintaining high standards of nursing care and medical support for serving personnel, veterans, and their families.
- **Role of the Military Nursing Service**
- The Military Nursing Service is an integral component of the Armed Forces Medical Services and plays a crucial role in delivering healthcare support to the Indian Armed Forces. Officers of the MNS are responsible for providing professional nursing care, managing healthcare services, supporting medical operations, and contributing to military medical preparedness during both peace and wartime conditions.
- As Additional Director General, Military Nursing Service, Major General Rachel Thomas will be responsible for assisting in the administration, professional development, training, and overall functioning of the nursing services across military medical establishments.
- **Leadership and Future Responsibilities**
- With her extensive experience in clinical practice, hospital administration, and military healthcare management, Major General Thomas is well-positioned to guide the Military Nursing Service through emerging healthcare challenges and modernization initiatives.
- Her leadership is expected to further strengthen nursing standards, enhance professional training, and support the continued delivery of high-quality healthcare services within the Armed Forces Medical Services.



## Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty Assumes Charge as Commander-in-Chief of Andaman & Nicobar Command

- Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty, AVSM, assumed charge as the 20th Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) at Sri Vijaya Puram on June 1, 2026. His appointment marks an important leadership transition in India's only integrated Tri-Service Operational Command, which plays a crucial role in safeguarding national interests in the Indo-Pacific region.
- A highly experienced naval officer with over 36 years of distinguished service, Vice Admiral McCarty brings extensive expertise in operational, strategic, training, and joint-service domains.
- **Early Career and Professional Education**
- Commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1989, Vice Admiral McCarty is a specialist in Gunnery and Missile Warfare. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated exceptional leadership and professional excellence in a variety of challenging assignments.
- He is an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington, and the National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi, both premier institutions for advanced military education and strategic studies.
- **Distinguished Naval Career**
- Vice Admiral McCarty has held numerous important sea and shore appointments during his naval career. His operational journey began as a member of the commissioning crew of INS Delhi, one of the Indian Navy's frontline guided missile destroyers. He subsequently completed various

specialist appointments onboard the warship, gaining extensive operational experience.

- His command assignments include:
  - INS Ajay
  - INS Khanjar
  - INS Shivalik
- These commands provided him with valuable experience in maritime operations, fleet management, and naval warfare.
- **Key Staff and Training Appointments**
- In addition to his sea commands, Vice Admiral McCarty has served in several important staff and training positions. Some of his notable assignments include:
  - Training Commander at the Indian Naval Academy
  - Command Plans Officer at Headquarters Eastern Naval Command
  - Commodore Naval Plans at Naval Headquarters
- These roles contributed significantly to operational planning, training, force development, and capability enhancement within the Indian Navy.
- **Leadership at Flag Rank**
- After his promotion to Flag Rank in 2020, Vice Admiral McCarty assumed several senior leadership appointments, including:
  - Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Staff Requirements)
  - Controller of Personnel Services
  - Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet (FOCWF) in 2023
- As Commander of the Western Fleet, he led one of the Indian Navy's most powerful operational formations, responsible for safeguarding India's maritime interests in the Arabian Sea and beyond.
- In 2024, he became the tenth Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy, where he played a key role in shaping the next generation of naval officers.
- **Tri-Service Experience and International Assignments**
- Before taking over as Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command, Vice Admiral McCarty served in consecutive tri-service appointments at Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) during 2025–26. These included:
  - Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Policy, Plans and Force Development)
  - Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Doctrine, Organisation and Training)

- These assignments enhanced his expertise in joint military planning, force development, strategic doctrine, and inter-service coordination.
- His international experience includes serving as:
  - Directing Staff at the Naval and Maritime Academy, Sri Lanka
  - Defence Advisor to Singapore and the Philippines from 2011 to 2015
- These diplomatic and training assignments strengthened India's defence cooperation with key regional partners.
- **Strategic Importance of Andaman & Nicobar Command**
- The Andaman & Nicobar Command is India's first and only integrated Tri-Service Command, bringing together personnel and assets from the Army, Navy, and Air Force under a unified command structure.
- Located at a strategically vital position near major international sea lanes, the command plays a critical role in:
  - Maritime surveillance and security
  - Protection of sea lines of communication
  - Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations
  - Regional security cooperation
  - Safeguarding India's interests in the Indo-Pacific
  - The command serves as a key pillar of India's maritime strategy and defence posture in the Indian Ocean Region.
- **Vision for the Future**
- Upon assuming command, Vice Admiral McCarty highlighted the strategic importance of the Andaman & Nicobar Command in ensuring maritime security and regional stability.
- He reaffirmed his commitment to:
  - Enhancing operational preparedness
  - Strengthening jointness among the three armed services
  - Improving interoperability and coordination
  - Reinforcing the command's role in national and regional security
- His leadership is expected to further strengthen India's ability to respond to emerging security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.



## BRO Celebrates 37th Raising Day of Project UDAYAK

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated the 37th Raising Day of Project UDAYAK on June 1, 2026, at Doomdooma in Assam. The occasion marked over three decades of dedicated service in developing and maintaining strategic infrastructure across India's North-Eastern region. The celebrations highlighted the project's significant contribution to national security, regional connectivity, and socio-economic development in some of the country's most remote and challenging terrains.
- **Commemorating Three Decades of Service**
- The Raising Day celebrations were marked by a variety of ceremonial, welfare, and community outreach activities. As part of the event, Project UDAYAK organized:
  - Swachhata Abhiyan (Cleanliness Drive)
  - Road Safety Awareness Campaigns
  - Run and Walkathon Events
  - Medical Camps
  - Dental Health Camps
  - These activities benefited local communities and reflected the project's commitment not only to infrastructure development but also to social welfare and community engagement.
  - Internal events such as Sainik Sammelan and troop interactions were also conducted to strengthen morale, foster camaraderie, and recognize the contributions of personnel serving in demanding operational environments.
- **Strategic Role of Project UDAYAK**

- Project UDAYAK is one of the key projects of the Border Roads Organisation responsible for constructing and maintaining strategic road infrastructure in the easternmost parts of Arunachal Pradesh and adjoining areas of Assam.
- The project is entrusted with the maintenance and development of more than 1,457 kilometers of road network. Its area of responsibility includes several strategically important districts:
  - Anjaw
  - Lohit
  - Dibang Valley
  - Longding
  - Tirap
  - Changlang
- These regions are located near sensitive international borders and play a critical role in India's defence and border management strategy.
- **Enhancing Connectivity Along Strategic Frontiers**
- Project UDAYAK has been instrumental in improving connectivity in remote and strategically important areas situated along:
  - The Line of Actual Control (LAC)
  - The Indo-Myanmar Border
- By building and maintaining roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure, the project facilitates the movement of security forces, enhances border management capabilities, and supports the development of local communities.
- The project is currently engaged in the construction of roads and border fencing infrastructure along the Indo-Myanmar border, which is expected to further strengthen national security and improve accessibility in frontier regions.
- **Major Infrastructure Achievements**
- Over the years, Project UDAYAK has successfully executed several landmark infrastructure projects despite difficult terrain, adverse weather conditions, and logistical challenges.
- In 2025, the project completed:
  - 12 strategic bridges
  - One important road project
  - One helipad

- These infrastructure assets were inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and have significantly improved mobility, connectivity, and operational preparedness in the region.
- The projects have also contributed to economic growth by improving access to markets, healthcare, education, and other essential services for local populations.
- **Contribution to National Security and Development**
- The strategic road infrastructure developed by Project UDAYAK serves multiple purposes. It supports military logistics and operational readiness while simultaneously promoting socio-economic development in remote border areas.
- Improved connectivity has enabled better integration of border communities with the national mainstream and enhanced disaster response capabilities in the region.
- The project's efforts align with the Government of India's broader objective of strengthening border infrastructure and ensuring balanced regional development in the North-East.
- **Looking Ahead**
- As Project UDAYAK completed 37 years of service, it reaffirmed its commitment to nation-building, excellence, and infrastructure development in some of India's most challenging operational environments.
- With ongoing projects aimed at enhancing border connectivity and security, Project UDAYAK continues to play a vital role in supporting India's strategic interests and fostering development in the North-Eastern region.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. The second India–Australia Defence Ministers’ Dialogue was held in which city on June 1, 2026?**

- A) Canberra
- B) Sydney
- C) New Delhi
- D) Melbourne

**Ans: C) New Delhi**

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**2. India and Australia announced plans to jointly host a Search and Rescue and Tabletop Exercise at which location?**

- A) Kochi
- B) Visakhapatnam
- C) Chennai
- D) Port Blair

**Ans: C) Chennai**

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**3. Which international convention was highlighted by India and Australia while emphasizing freedom of navigation and overflight in the Indo-Pacific?**

- A) Geneva Convention
- B) UNCLOS (1982)
- C) Vienna Convention
- D) Hague Convention

**Ans: B) UNCLOS (1982)**

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**4. Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry assumed charge as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of which command?**

- A) Eastern Air Command
- B) Southern Air Command
- C) Western Air Command
- D) Central Air Command

**Ans: D) Central Air Command**

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**5. Before taking over the Central Air Command, Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry served as:**

- A) Vice Chief of Air Staff
- B) Senior Air Staff Officer, Southern Air Command
- C) Commandant, Air Force Academy
- D) Deputy Chief of Air Staff

**Ans: B) Senior Air Staff Officer, Southern Air Command**

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**6. Major General Rachel Thomas assumed the appointment of:**

- A) Director General Armed Forces Medical Services
- B) Additional Director General, Military Nursing Service
- C) Commandant, AFMC Pune
- D) Director General Medical Services (Army)

**Ans: B) Additional Director General, Military Nursing Service**

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**7. Major General Rachel Thomas is an alumna of which institution?**

- A) AIIMS New Delhi
- B) College of Nursing, AFMC Pune
- C) CMC Vellore
- D) JIPMER Puducherry

**Ans: B) College of Nursing, AFMC Pune**

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**8. Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty assumed charge as the 20th Commander-in-Chief of:**

- A) Western Naval Command
- B) Eastern Naval Command
- C) Southern Naval Command
- D) Andaman & Nicobar Command

**Ans: D) Andaman & Nicobar Command**

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**9. Which is India's only integrated Tri-Service Operational Command?**

- A) Strategic Forces Command
- B) Western Command
- C) Andaman & Nicobar Command

D) Integrated Defence Staff Headquarters

**Ans: C) Andaman & Nicobar Command**

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**10. Project UDAYAK of the Border Roads Organisation is responsible for maintaining more than how many kilometres of road network in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam?**

A) 1,157 km

B) 1,257 km

C) 1,357 km

D) 1,457 km

**Ans: D) 1,457 km**

**11. AEW&CS Stands For**

A. Airborne Early Warning and Center System

B. Airborne East Warning and Control System

C. Airborne Early Warning and Control System

D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**12. Air Marshal Rank of IAF Is Equivalent to which rank of Indian Navy?**

A. Commodore

B. Captain

C. Commander

D. Vice Admiral

**ANSWER: D**

**13. 'CORPS' In Indian Army Headed By\_\_**

A. General Officer Commanding (GOC)

B. General Officer Commanding-in-chief (GOC-in-C)

C. Major General

D. Brigadier

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Which Is/Are The Combat Arms Of The Indian Army?**

A. Infantry

B. The Armoured Corp

C. The Mechanized Infantry

D. All of the above

**ANSWER: D**

**15. Bugatti Car Manufactured By**

A. Germany

B. France

C. Mexico

D. USA

**ANSWER: B**

**16. India Purchased Dragunov SVD from**

A. USA

B. Sweden

C. France

D. USSR

**ANSWER: D**

**17. Oslo Is The Capital Of**

A. Norway

B. Palau

C. Philippines

D. Maldives

**ANSWER: A**

**18. "Mind-Master" Book Is Written By**

A. Roopa Pai

B. Neha J Hiranandani

C. M Venkaiah Naidu

D. Viswanathan Anand and Susan Ninan

**ANSWER: D**

**19. Heckler & Koch MP5 Is A**

A. Submachine gun

B. Machine pistol

C. Sniper rifle

D. Anti-material rifle

**ANSWER: A**

**20. Lt Gen. Rank Of Indian Army Is To Which Rank Of IAF?**

- A. Vice Admiral
- B. Air Commodore
- C. Commodore
- D. Air Marshal

**ANSWER: D**

