

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 15 June 2026

### Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth Appointed as COAS

- GOI has appointed **Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth**, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, presently serving as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff, as the next Chief of the Army Staff with effect from the afternoon of June 30, 2026. The present Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi retires from service the same day.
- Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986.
- His command assignments include an Armoured Regiment in the Desert Sector, an Armoured Brigade in the Western Theatre, and a Counter-Insurgency Force in Jammu & Kashmir.
- As a Lieutenant General, he commanded the Sudarshan Chakra Corps, one of the Indian Army's premier strike formations. He subsequently served as General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area, overseeing key national and international military engagements and ceremonial responsibilities.



## First Batch Of Women Cadets Trained at NDA Commissioned

- The first batch of women cadets trained at the National Defence Academy (NDA) has been commissioned as officers in the Defence Forces, marking a significant milestone in the evolution of women's participation in military service.
- The batch of 17 women cadets, who joined the NDA in August 2022 as part of the 148th Course, successfully completed their rigorous pre-commission training at their respective Service academies.
- In the Indian Army, nine officers were commissioned during the Passing Out Parade of the 158th Regular Course held at the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, on June 13, 2026. The parade was reviewed by President Smt Droupadi Murmu.
- In the Indian Air Force, five officers were commissioned during the Combined Graduation Parade of the 217th Course at the Air Force Academy, Dundigal,

Hyderabad, on June 13, 2026. The parade was reviewed by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh.

- In the Indian Navy, three officers were commissioned during the Spring Term 2026 Passing Out Parade at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala on May 28, 2026. The parade was reviewed by Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena.



## India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030

- On 17 February 2026, PM Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron elevated the bilateral relationship to a **“Special Global Strategic Partnership”** and jointly inaugurated the **India-France Year of Innovation 2026**, calling for expanded and diversified cooperation in areas such as artificial intelligence, innovation, research, technology, digital technology and cyber space, health, culture, economy, educational links and people-to-people ties.
- Building upon the Horizon 2047 Roadmap and the shared innovation journey of the two countries, India and France recognize innovation as a central driver of economic resilience, sustainable development, strategic autonomy, and technological and industrial sovereignty.
- Both sides agree that a strengthened innovation partnership will help unlock the full innovation potential of the two countries and contribute to solutions for global challenges.

### Key Areas of Cooperation

#### Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Both countries agreed to intensify cooperation in AI research, development, governance, and ethical use of technology. A dedicated working group on AI governance will be established to promote responsible and secure AI applications. The partnership also aims to develop talent, computing capacity, and trusted AI systems.

### **Startup Ecosystem**

India and France will encourage greater collaboration between startups, investors, incubators, and venture capital firms. The Bharat Innovates 2026 initiative in Nice brought together more than 120 Indian deep-tech startups and global investors, creating opportunities for cross-border innovation and investment.

### **Space and Emerging Technologies**

Space cooperation remains a major pillar of the bilateral relationship. The roadmap promotes joint research and innovation in satellite technology, advanced computing, semiconductors, aerospace, and other strategic sectors. Both countries recognize the importance of technological cooperation for economic growth and global competitiveness.

### **Higher Education and Research**

The roadmap encourages partnerships between universities, research institutions, and scientific communities. Student exchanges, joint research projects, and academic collaborations are expected to expand significantly. France has also set a target of hosting 30,000 Indian students by 2030, highlighting the importance of educational cooperation.

### **Bharat Innovates 2026**

A major highlight of the initiative was the launch of **Bharat Innovates 2026** in Nice, France, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron. The event showcased India's growing deep-tech ecosystem and featured innovators, startups, universities, investors, and industry leaders from both nations. Areas such as AI, biotechnology, healthcare, semiconductors, energy, and manufacturing received special attention.

### **Significance of the Roadmap**

The Innovation Roadmap 2030 is expected to:

- Strengthen technological cooperation between India and France.
- Promote innovation-driven economic growth.
- Encourage startup investments and entrepreneurship.
- Enhance collaboration in AI, space, and advanced technologies.
- Expand educational and research partnerships.
- Support the long-term goals of the India–France strategic partnership.



## INS Sharda Concludes Successful Visit To Colombo

- INS Sharda departed Colombo, Sri Lanka on 13 Jun 2026 after a successful port call that further strengthened maritime cooperation and friendship between India and Sri Lanka. The visit featured a series of professional, training, and sporting engagements with the Sri Lankan Navy.
- Friendly sports fixtures, professional exchanges, and cross-deck visits further enhanced interoperability and strengthened bonds between the two services.
- During the port call, the Commanding Officer of INS Sharda paid a courtesy call on Shri Santosh Jha, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka.
- The visit underscored the enduring maritime partnership between India and Sri Lanka and reaffirmed their shared commitment to regional maritime cooperation and security in line with the vision of **MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)**.



## LCH Prachand Demonstrates HELINA Missile

- The Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand has achieved a significant milestone with the successful demonstration of its HELINA anti-tank guided missile (ATGM), underscoring India's progress in indigenous rotary-wing strike capabilities.
- This event is part of a broader roadmap that integrates advanced weapon systems and electronic warfare suites into the platform, ensuring its readiness for frontline deployment in high-intensity combat environments.
- The electronic warfare suite is expected to be fielded within the next six months. Entirely indigenous, it will comprise a Radar Warning Receiver, Laser Warning Receiver, and Missile Approach Warning System.
- On the weapons front, HELINA ATGM trials are progressing smoothly. The missile, designed for precision strikes against armoured targets, will first complete its validation on the **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH)** platform by April 2026.
- This phased approach ensures that technical risks are mitigated while maintaining momentum towards operational readiness. The HELINA, with its fire-and-forget capability and high hit probability, will significantly enhance the Prachand's lethality in high-altitude warfare scenarios.
- The successful HELINA firing demonstration is therefore not an isolated achievement but part of a carefully sequenced program that combines indigenous avionics, electronic warfare systems, and advanced weaponry.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Who has been appointed as the next Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) of India with effect from June 30, 2026?**
  - a) General Upendra Dwivedi
  - b) Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth
  - c) Lieutenant General Manoj Pande
  - d) Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan

**Answer: b) Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth**

2. **The first batch of women cadets trained at the National Defence Academy (NDA) joined the NDA as part of which course?**
  - a) 146th Course
  - b) 147th Course
  - c) 148th Course
  - d) 149th Course

**Answer: c) 148th Course**

3. **Which two countries jointly launched the Innovation Roadmap 2030 to strengthen cooperation in AI, startups, space, and education?**
  - a) India and Germany
  - b) India and Japan
  - c) India and France
  - d) India and Australia

**Answer: c) India and France**

4. **The Bharat Innovates 2026 initiative, aimed at promoting innovation and startup collaboration, was held in:**

- a) Paris
- b) Lyon
- c) Marseille
- d) Nice

**Answer: d) Nice**

5. **INS Sharda's visit to Colombo reaffirmed India's commitment to maritime cooperation under which initiative?**

- a) SAGAR
- b) Act East Policy
- c) MAHASAGAR
- d) Indo-Pacific Vision

**Answer: c) MAHASAGAR**

6. **The HELINA missile successfully demonstrated by the LCH Prachand is a:**

- a) Surface-to-Air Missile
- b) Anti-Ship Missile
- c) Ballistic Missile
- d) Anti-Tank Guided Missile

**Answer: d) Anti-Tank Guided Missile**

7. **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Comes Under**

- A. MOD
- B. MHA
- C. MEA
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: B**

8. **Hambantota Port Is In**

- A. Indonesia
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. India
- D. China

**ANSWER: B**

9. **The Indian Government Plans To Construct A 2,500-metre-long Airstrip On Minicoy Island In**

- A. Goa
- B. Mumbai
- C. Lakshadweep
- D. Kochi

**ANSWER: C**

10. **Pakyong Airport is located in -**

- A. Sikkim
- B. Assam
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Nagaland

**ANSWER: A**

11. **Which port is also known as the New Mangalore Port?**

- A. Mormugao Port
- B. Panambur Port
- C. Kandla Port
- D. Tuticorin Port

**ANSWER: B**

12. **Port Blair Is Located On Which Island?**

- A.** The Little Andaman
- B.** The Great Nicobar
- C.** The South Andaman
- D.** The North Andaman

**ANSWER: C**

13. **Author Of The Book 'Kerala: God's Own Country'**

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Jeet Thayil
- C. Sudha Murthy
- D. Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai

**ANSWER: A**

14. **AUSINDEX Ex Conducts B/W**

- A. India & Indonesia

- B. India & Australia
- C. India & Sri Lanka
- D. India & Thailand

**ANSWER: B**

**15. "Poverty and Un-British Rule in India" Is Written By**

- A. Mahadevi Verma
- B. Premchand
- C. Dadabhai Naoroji
- D. Ratan Tata

**ANSWER: C**

**16. Havana Is The Capital Of**

- A. Cuba
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Cyprus

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Who Was The Prime Minister Of India During Indo-PAK War In 1965?**

- A. Jawaharlal Nehru
- B. Indira Gandhi
- C. Lal Bahadur Shastri
- D. Rajiv Gandhi

**ANSWER: C**

**18. Who Was The PM Of India During The Indo-Pak War In 1999?**

- A. Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- B. Indira Gandhi
- C. Lal Bahadur Shastri
- D. Rajiv Gandhi

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Ex 'Jal Prahar' Conducted In**

- A. Pune
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Mumbai

D. Kakinada

**ANSWER: D**

20. Current DG of The ICG Is

A. VS Pathania

B. Paramesh Sivamani

C. R Hari Kumar

D. None

**ANSWER: B**

