

Daily Defence Current Affairs

01 July 2026

Indian Navy Set To Commission 'Arnala'

- General Dhiraj Seth, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, took over as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) from General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM, who superannuated after more than four decades of distinguished service to the nation on 30 Jun 2026.
- General Dhiraj Seth is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986.
- Over a distinguished military career spanning nearly four decades, he has had extensive experience across the operational, strategic, capability development and institutional domains, contributing significantly to the Indian Army's combat effectiveness and long-term transformation.
- The General Officer has commanded at every level in diverse operational environments. 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.



Project BRAHMANK of BRO Marks its 16th Raising Day

- Project BRAHMANK of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 16th Raising Day on Jun 29, 2026, at Ranaghat, Arunachal Pradesh, marking fifteen years of dedicated service towards the development of strategic infrastructure and connectivity in the region.
- The Project is responsible for development and maintenance of strategic road infrastructure across the Siang, East Siang, West Siang, Upper Siang and Shi-Yomi districts of Arunachal Pradesh, as well as parts of Dhemaji district in Assam.
- The Project is entrusted with the maintenance and development of 811 km of roads and approximately 86 bridges, ranging from culverts to major steel and arch bridges.
- Some of its major engineering achievements include the 100-metre steel arch bridge over Siyom Nallah and the 165 metre PSC bridge over Simang Nallah on the Along–Yingkiong Road.
- During FY 2025–26, Project BRAHMANK achieved significant milestones with the inauguration of 13 bridges having a cumulative span of 390 metres across the Siang and Siyom Valleys and the blacktopping of 61 km of roads to NHDL specifications.

- The Project has also developed helipads to improve connectivity and strengthen strategic infrastructure in the region.
- As part of the 16th Raising Day celebrations, various social outreach and welfare activities were organised at Headquarters and Task Force locations. Sainik Sammelans, troop interactions and Bada Khana/Mess functions were also organised to mark the occasion and foster camaraderie among personnel.



Baaz Battalions

- The Indian Army now operates more than 50,000 drones, a dramatic expansion from just a few hundred two years ago, with plans to double this strength to nearly 1,00,000 within the next two to three years.
- This growth is being institutionalised through the raising of specialised Baaz Battalions to enhance surveillance, intelligence, and counter-drone capabilities.
- The Indian Army has undergone a rapid transformation in its unmanned aerial systems over the past two years. From possessing only a few hundred drones, the force now commands a fleet exceeding 50,000.
- This surge reflects both operational necessity and technological advancement, with drones increasingly becoming as common on the battlefield as radios, night-vision devices, and communication equipment.
- To meet this demand, the Army is raising Baaz Battalions, which will build upon existing Remotely Piloted Aircraft Flights. These battalions will consist of specialist personnel trained to operate and manage drone systems across the battlefield ecosystem.
- The Indian Army's current roadmap reflects a future-ready approach to warfare. By integrating drones into its operational doctrine, the Army is ensuring

persistent battlefield awareness, precision targeting, and enhanced survivability of its forces.



India's First Private Orbital Rocket Nears Historic Launch

- India has achieved a historic milestone as Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 rocket has had its Stage 1 successfully stacked at the First Launch Pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- This marks the first time a privately designed, developed, and manufactured orbital rocket has been placed on this government launch pad, signalling the imminent maiden flight of India's first private orbital mission.
- The stacking of Stage 1 is a decisive step in the final launch preparations. Stage 1 is the rocket's largest and most powerful section, housing the primary solid-fuel propulsion system.
- Skyroot Aerospace had earlier completed the integration of Stage 2, Kalam-250, which includes advanced control systems such as the flex nozzle, actuators, and inter-stage structures. With Stage 1 now stacked, the company is progressing towards the final assembly of Stages 3 and 4, which will provide precision manoeuvring and orbital insertion capability.
- The rocket is designed to carry payloads of up to 350 kilograms into low Earth orbit. Its modular design, clean stage separation, and indigenous navigation system make it a versatile launch vehicle for small satellites.



Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit To Be Next Vice Chief of IAF,

- Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, a senior military officer with over 3,300 hours of flying experience, is set to be the next Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS).
- He will take charge on July 1, succeeding Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor, an official said on Tuesday.
- Air Marshal Dixit was commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force in December 1986. He is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla; Defence Services Staff College (Bangladesh) and National Defence College, New Delhi, the defence ministry earlier said.
- The air force officer is a "Qualified Flying Instructor and Experimental Test Pilot with over 3,300 hours of flying experience on over 20 types of aircraft, including Mirage-2000, MiG-21 & Jaguar," the ministry said.
- Before being appointed as VCAS, he was serving as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC) at Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS). He assumed the appointment in May 2025.
- Before being appointed as VCAS, he was serving as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC) at Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS). He assumed the appointment in May 2025.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who assumed charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) on 30 June 2026?

- A) General Upendra Dwivedi
- B) General Manoj Pande
- C) **General Dhiraj Seth**
- D) General M.M. Naravane

Answer: C) General Dhiraj Seth

2. Project BRAHMANK of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is primarily responsible for developing strategic infrastructure in which state?

- A) Sikkim
- B) Uttarakhand
- C) **Arunachal Pradesh**
- D) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: C) Arunachal Pradesh

3. The newly raised 'Baaz Battalions' of the Indian Army are mainly intended to strengthen which capability?

- A) Naval warfare
- B) Missile defence
- C) **Drone operations, surveillance, and counter-drone missions**
- D) Cyber warfare only

Answer: C) Drone operations, surveillance, and counter-drone missions

4. Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital rocket, has been designed and manufactured by which company?

- A) Agnikul Cosmos
- B) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- C) Larsen & Toubro (L&T)
- D) **Skyroot Aerospace**

Answer: D) Skyroot Aerospace

5. Who took over as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) of the Indian Air Force on 1 July 2026?

- A) Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor
- B) Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh
- C) **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit**
- D) Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria

Answer: C) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit

6. In which city was the 5th India-Tajikistan Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism held?

- A) Tashkent
- B) Dushanbe
- C) Bishkek
- D) Astana

Answer: B) Dushanbe

7. Which country formally notified a \$482.2 million sustainment support package for India's AH-64E Apache attack helicopters and M777A2 ultra-light howitzers in June 2026?

- A) United States
- B) France
- C) Russia
- D) Israel

Answer: A) USA

8. Operation Cactus, conducted in 1988, aimed to protect the President of which country?

- A. Maldives
- B. Sri Lanka

- C. Mauritius
- D. Seychelles

ANSWER: A

9. Operation Rajeev, carried out in 1987, targeted the capture of which post in Siachen?

- A. Kargil
- B. Dras
- C. Qaid
- D. Batalik

ANSWER: C

10. UDHR Stands For

- A. Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- B. Universal Declaration of Human Riot
- C. Universal Declared of Human Rights
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

11. Which one of the following statements is/are correct regarding BRICS?

1. It was set up with the sole purpose of countering the NATO influence and emerging as its substitute.

2. The New Development Bank is one of the initiatives of BRICS.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: B

12. World Economic Forum Hq Is In

- A. Geneva, Switzerland
- B. Lausanne, Switzerland
- C. The Hague, The Netherlands
- D. Gland, Switzerland

ANSWER: A

13. Which Is Not An Asian Country?

- A. Singapore

- B. Brunei
- C. UAE
- D. Peru

ANSWER: D

14. GPMG Stands For

- A. General Purple Machine Gun
- B. General Purpose Machine Gun
- C. General Purpose Machine Gum
- D. None

ANSWER: B

15. 'Ex Zapad' Conducted B/W India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Russia
- C. UAE
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: B

16. Padma Vibhushan Award Was Instituted on

- A. 2nd January 1954
- B. 2nd January 1955
- C. 2nd January 1956
- D. 2nd January 1957

ANSWER: A

17. Hq Of Department of Space Is In

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Kochi
- D. Kolkata

ANSWER: B

18. CAIR Stands For

- A. Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Robotics
- B. Centre for Artificial Intelligent & Robotics
- C. Centre for Artillery Intelligence & Robotics
- D. Centre form Artificial Intelligence & Robotics

ANSWER: A

19. "An Odyssey in War and Peace" Book Written By

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. SHF Manekshaw
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Lt Gen J.F.R. Jacob

ANSWER: D

20. With reference to the Project 15B warships, consider the following statements:

- 1. They are equipped with BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and long-range Surface-to-Air Missiles.**
- 2. 'INS Surat' was the first-ever ship of Project 15B Destroyers.**
- 3. Project 15B warships are completely indigenous.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

ANSWER: A