

Daily Defence Current Affairs

04 August 2026

Vice Admiral Manish Chadha Assumes Charge as DGNO

- The Indian Navy witnessed a significant leadership transition as **Vice Admiral Manish Chadha** assumed charge as the **Director General Naval Operations (DGNO)** on **3 August 2026**. A highly experienced officer, he brings decades of operational expertise in communication, electronic warfare, and naval strategy to one of the Navy's most important operational appointments.
- **Background**
- Vice Admiral Chadha is an alumnus of the **78th Course of the National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla**, and was commissioned into the Indian Navy on **1 July 1991**. He specialises in **Communication and Electronic Warfare** and has completed advanced professional courses at the **Defence Services Staff College, Wellington**, and the **National Defence University, Washington, USA**. Before taking over as DGNO, he served as the **Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy**, where he played a key role in shaping future naval leadership.
- **Significance**
- As DGNO, Vice Admiral Chadha will oversee the planning and execution of naval operations, maritime security, and operational readiness, strengthening India's maritime interests in the Indo-Pacific region.



AFHQ Civilian Services Day Celebrated

- The **85th Armed Forces Headquarters (AFHQ) Civilian Services Day** was celebrated in **New Delhi** on **3 August 2026**. Addressing the occasion, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** praised the contribution of civilian personnel and highlighted the shared commitment of both civilian and military employees towards the goal of "**Nation First.**"
- **Key Highlights**
 - AFHQ Civilian Services Day is observed every year on **1 August**.
 - The AFHQ cadre was established on **1 August 1942**.
 - The defence minister urged civilian officers to become the "**strategic brain**" of India's defence management system.
 - Civilian officials serve alongside the Armed Forces in the Integrated Service Headquarters and other defence organisations.
- **Significance**
 - The occasion recognises the indispensable contribution of civilian employees in defence administration and encourages greater coordination between military and civilian institutions.



BEL, Esri India Sign MoU

- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Esri India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on defence projects involving Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Location Intelligence, and GeoAI technologies. The

partnership aims to enhance India's defence capabilities through advanced geospatial solutions.

- Key Highlights
- Joint development of GIS and GeoAI-based defence applications.
- Integration of BEL's defence electronics expertise with Esri India's geospatial technologies.
- Training support through the Indo ArcGIS platform.
- Focus on mission-critical defence and strategic applications.
- Significance
- The collaboration supports India's defence modernisation programme and strengthens indigenous capabilities in geospatial intelligence and digital battlefield management.



Pakistan Deploys Chinese SH-15 Self-Propelled Howitzers Along Indian Border

- Pakistan has strengthened its artillery capability by deploying **Chinese-made SH-15 self-propelled artillery guns** along sectors facing India. The induction is part of Pakistan's ongoing artillery modernisation programme.
- **Key Highlights**
- SH-15 is a **155 mm, 52-calibre** wheeled self-propelled gun.
- Manufactured by **Norinco Corporation** and known in China as **PCL-181**.
- Pakistan ordered **236 systems** in 2019.
- The system can strike targets beyond **50 km** using rocket-assisted projectiles.

- Pakistan has also obtained **Transfer of Technology (ToT)** to manufacture the system domestically.
- **Significance**
- The deployment enhances Pakistan's long-range artillery capability and reflects the growing defence cooperation between Pakistan and China.



Russia Introduces 'Volna' Electronic Warfare System Against Starlink

- Russia has unveiled a new electronic warfare system named **Volna Kupol Garant**, designed to interfere with **Starlink satellite communications** by targeting satellites instead of ground terminals. The system represents a new approach to space-based electronic warfare.
- **Key Highlights**
- Uses **high-frequency narrow-beam radio transmissions**.
- Targets **Starlink satellites directly** rather than user terminals.
- Temporarily blocks satellites from receiving signals from ground stations.
- Does not physically damage satellites.
- Intended to counter military dependence on satellite-based communication networks.
- **Significance**

- The development highlights the increasing role of space-based communications in modern warfare and demonstrates the evolution of electronic warfare technologies targeting satellite constellations.



Exercise ROTOR CLAP III

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully concluded **Exercise ROTOR CLAP III** at the **Pokhran Field Firing Range** in **Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**, on **1–2 August 2026**. The exercise was designed to enhance the operational capabilities of the IAF in tackling the growing threat posed by **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)**. Bringing together several helicopter units, the exercise focused on improving coordination, precision engagement, and rapid response against hostile drones.
- **Background**
- Exercise ROTOR CLAP III is the **third edition** of a specialised rotary-wing military exercise aimed at strengthening helicopter-based counter-drone operations. With drones increasingly being used for surveillance, reconnaissance, and offensive missions, the Indian Air Force is continuously upgrading its tactics and operational readiness to effectively counter these emerging aerial threats.
- **Key Highlights**
- Conducted at the **Pokhran Field Firing Range** in Rajasthan.
- Held on **1–2 August 2026**.
- Focused on **Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (Counter-UAS)** operations.
- Included **live firing** of missiles and rockets to validate combat capabilities.

- Evaluated helicopter-based tactics for detecting, tracking, and neutralising drone threats.
- Improved coordination among different helicopter units during complex battlefield scenarios.
- **Participating Helicopter Platforms**
- The exercise featured a wide range of helicopters serving different operational roles, including:
 - **AH-64 Apache** attack helicopters
 - **Mi-25/35** attack gunships
 - **HAL Prachand** Light Combat Helicopters
 - **CH-47F(I) Chinook** heavy-lift helicopters
 - **Mi-17** medium-lift helicopters
 - **HAL Dhruv (ALH)** Advanced Light Helicopters
- These platforms demonstrated capabilities in combat support, troop transport, logistics, surveillance, and precision strike missions.
- **Importance of Counter-UAS Operations**
- Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (Counter-UAS) involve technologies and operational procedures used to **detect, identify, track, and neutralise hostile drones**. As unmanned aerial vehicles become a major component of modern warfare, strengthening counter-drone capabilities has become a priority for armed forces worldwide. Exercises such as ROTOR CLAP III help validate operational concepts, improve battlefield coordination, and prepare forces to respond effectively to evolving aerial threats.
- **Significance**
- Exercise ROTOR CLAP III highlights the Indian Air Force's commitment to enhancing its combat readiness and adapting to modern warfare challenges. By integrating advanced helicopter platforms with specialised counter-drone tactics, the exercise strengthens India's air defence capabilities and improves the effectiveness of rotary-wing operations in future conflicts.
- **Key Facts for Exams**

- **Exercise:** ROTOR CLAP III
- **Conducted By:** Indian Air Force (IAF)
- **Venue:** Pokhran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- **Dates:** 1–2 August 2026
- **Theme:** Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (Counter-UAS)
- **Major Helicopters:** AH-64 Apache, Mi-25/35, HAL Prachand, Chinook, Mi-17, HAL Dhruv
- **Objective:** Enhance helicopter-based capabilities to detect, track, and neutralise drone threats.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who assumed charge as the Director General Naval Operations (DGNO) of the Indian Navy on 3 August 2026?

- A) Vice Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi
- B) Vice Admiral Sanjay J. Singh
- C) Vice Admiral Manish Chadha
- D) Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan

Answer: C) Vice Admiral Manish Chadha

Explanation: Vice Admiral Manish Chadha assumed charge as the Director General Naval Operations (DGNO) on 3 August 2026. He is a Communication and Electronic Warfare Specialist and a former Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy.

2. AFHQ Civilian Services Day is observed every year on:

- A) 15 January
- B) 26 January
- C) 3 August
- D) 1 August

Answer: D) 1 August

Explanation: AFHQ Civilian Services Day is celebrated annually on 1 August to recognise the contribution of civilian personnel serving alongside the Armed Forces in defence establishments.

3. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed an MoU with Esri India primarily to collaborate in which field?

- A) Missile manufacturing
- B) Naval shipbuilding
- C) GIS, Location Intelligence and GeoAI for defence projects
- D) Space launch technology

Answer: C) GIS, Location Intelligence and GeoAI for defence projects

Explanation: BEL and Esri India signed an MoU to jointly develop defence solutions using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Location Intelligence, and GeoAI technologies.

4. The SH-15 self-propelled artillery gun deployed by Pakistan is manufactured by:

- A) Rostec
- B) Bharat Forge
- C) BAE Systems
- D) Norinco Corporation

Answer: D) Norinco Corporation

Explanation: The 155 mm, 52-calibre SH-15 (PCL-181) artillery system is manufactured by China's Norinco Corporation and has been inducted into Pakistan's artillery forces.

5. Russia's newly unveiled 'Volna Kupol Garant' system is designed to:

- A) Destroy enemy fighter aircraft
- B) Intercept ballistic missiles
- C) Disrupt Starlink satellite communications through electronic warfare
- D) Detect underwater submarines

Answer: C) Disrupt Starlink satellite communications through electronic warfare

Explanation: The Volna Kupol Garant system uses narrow-beam high-frequency radio transmissions to interfere with Starlink satellites, temporarily preventing them from serving ground terminals.

6. Before becoming the Director General Naval Operations (DGNO), Vice Admiral Manish Chadha served as the:

- A) Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet
- B) Chief of Personnel
- C) Commandant, Indian Naval Academy
- D) Vice Chief of the Naval Staff

Answer: C) Commandant, Indian Naval Academy

Explanation: Prior to his appointment as DGNO, Vice Admiral Manish Chadha served as the Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy, where he was responsible for developing future naval leaders.

7. Exercise ROTOR CLAP III, conducted by the Indian Air Force, primarily focused on:

- A) Maritime Anti-Submarine Warfare
- B) High-Altitude Logistics Operations

- C) Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (Counter-UAS) Operations
- D) Air-to-Air Refuelling Operations

Answer: C) Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (Counter-UAS) Operations

Explanation: Exercise ROTOR CLAP III was conducted to enhance the Indian Air Force's capability to detect, track, and neutralise unmanned aerial threats (drones) using rotary-wing platforms.

8. Which of the following helicopters participated in Exercise ROTOR CLAP III?

- 1. AH-64 Apache
- 2. HAL Prachand
- 3. CH-47 Chinook
- 4. HAL Tejas

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 1, 2 and 3 only
- C) 2, 3 and 4 only
- D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: B) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation: Exercise ROTOR CLAP III featured AH-64 Apache, Mi-25/35, HAL Prachand, Chinook, Mi-17, and HAL Dhruv helicopters. HAL Tejas is a fighter aircraft and did not participate in this rotary-wing exercise.

9. IRST Stands For

- A. Infra-Red Search and Terrorist System
- B. Infra-Red Search and Tokyo System
- C. Infra-Red Search and Track System
- D. None

ANSWER: C

10. India Sold Brahmos Missile To

- A. Philippines
- B. Vietnam
- C. Thailand
- D. Japan

ANSWER: A

11. Agni-V Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. IRBM
- D. ICBM

ANSWER: D

12. Which is Not Correctly Matched:

- A. IAF Day: 8 Oct
- B. Indian Navy Day: 4 Dec
- C. Indian Coast Guard: 26 Jan
- D. BSF Day: 1 Dec

ANSWER: C

13. "Sarvatra" (Everywhere) Is the Motto Of

- A. JKRIF
- B. RR
- C. CORPS OF ENGINEERS
- D. Madras Regiment

ANSWER: C

14. IAF Was Formed On

- A. 8 October 1932
- B. 8 October 1922
- C. 8 October 1942
- D. 8 October 1952

ANSWER: A

15. SLBM Stands For

- A. Submarine-launched Ballistic Misery
- B. Submarine-launched Ballistic Missile
- C. Submarine-launched Ballet Missile
- D. Solar-launched Ballistic Missile

ANSWER: B

16. Lima Is the Capital Of

- A. Poland
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE

D. Peru

ANSWER: D

17. "The Epic Battle of Longewala" Book Written By

A. Arun Kumar

B. Ashish Ghatak

C. Ramesh Kandula

D. Air Marshal Retd Bharat Kumar

ANSWER: D

18. Joint Exercises B/w The India and UK Is Called:

A. Yama

B. SLINEX

C. Indra

D. Konkan Shakti

ANSWER: D

19. Where Is the Hq of The Southwestern Command of The Indian Army?

A. Jaipur

B. Vishakhapatnam

C. Pune

D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

20. Merkava Mk.4 Is the Tank Of

A. Germany

B. Israel

C. USA

D. India

ANSWER: B