

Daily Defence Current Affairs

17 August 2026

COAS General Dhiraj Seth Begins Official Visit to Nepal

- General Dhiraj Seth, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), began an official visit to Nepal from 17 to 19 August 2026. The visit is aimed at strengthening the longstanding defence cooperation and military-to-military relationship between India and Nepal.
- During the visit, General Dhiraj Seth is scheduled to lay a wreath at the Army Pavilion, Tundikhel, and receive a Guard of Honour at the Nepali Army Headquarters. He will also interact with the Chief of the Nepali Army and receive briefings on issues of mutual interest.
- A significant part of the visit is the continuation of the unique military tradition between India and Nepal. General Dhiraj Seth will be conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Nepali Army by Nepal's President Ram Chandra Paudel.
- The visit also includes an interaction with student officers of the Army Command and Staff Course at Shivapuri on 18 August.



Iran and Oman Reach Agreement on Strait of Hormuz Shipping Route

- Iran and Oman reached an agreement on 15 August 2026 concerning a shipping route map for traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. The agreement focuses on facilitating commercial shipping while addressing maritime security concerns in the strategically important waterway.
- The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow maritime passage located between Iran and Oman. It connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea and is one of the world's most important routes for oil transportation.
- Iranian officials described the arrangement as an independent agreement between the two coastal countries, aimed at protecting commercial shipping while maintaining the sovereignty of both nations.
- Iran also stated that a full reopening of the shipping lane and restoration of maritime security would depend on the United States lifting its naval blockade and stopping military movements.
- The strategic importance of the Strait is highlighted by its heavy tanker traffic and narrow geography. According to the material, the International Maritime Organization had cited 65 confirmed vessel incidents and 17 seafarer deaths in the Strait of Hormuz and the wider Middle East by 11 August 2026.



Reliance, Rolls-Royce Join India's AMCA Engine Programme

- Reliance Industries and Rolls-Royce announced a strategic partnership on 14 August 2026 to design, develop and manufacture an indigenous combat aircraft engine in India. The collaboration is linked to India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme.
- The AMCA is India's planned fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft programme. Such aircraft are generally associated with low observability, advanced avionics, sensor fusion and internal weapons carriage. The AMCA programme requires a high-thrust engine to support indigenous development and production.
- The two companies have also indicated the possibility of establishing an Aerospace Gas Turbine Complex in India. The proposed facility could support engine design, development, manufacturing, testing and through-life maintenance.
- The partnership would combine Rolls-Royce's propulsion technology with Reliance's manufacturing capabilities for aerospace production in India.
- The material also notes that Safran of France is associated with DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) on another high-thrust AMCA engine proposal.



India Targets 100 GW Nuclear Power by 2047

- India has set an ambitious target of achieving 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047. The expansion plan combines indigenous reactor technologies, Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and new regulatory provisions for private participation in the civil nuclear sector.

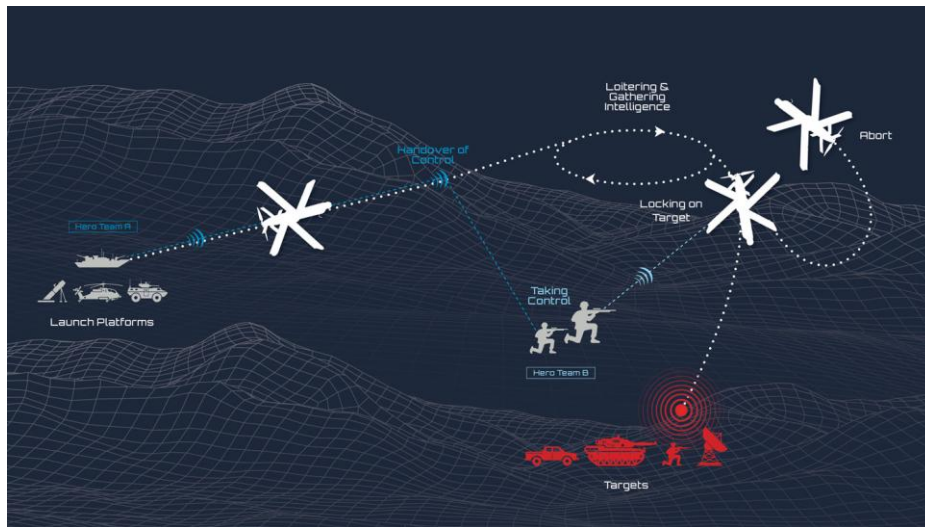
- India's nuclear programme follows a three-stage approach, involving Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs), Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs), and thorium-based systems.
- PHWRs use natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as moderator and coolant, while SMRs are compact reactors designed for smaller unit sizes and modular deployment.
- The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is India's principal nuclear research institution, while BHAVINI is responsible for fast breeder reactor projects.
- The Atomic Energy Commission has approved Tarapur in Maharashtra for the lead units of the 220 MWe Bharat Small Modular Reactor and 55 MWe SMR-55. Meanwhile, the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, attained first criticality in 2026.
- The SHANTI Act, 2025, is also highlighted as an important part of the new nuclear framework. According to the PPT, it repealed the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, while establishing provisions concerning insurance, licensing and foreign-designed reactors.



MoD Signs ₹1,577 Crore Contracts for Loiter Munition Systems

- The Ministry of Defence has signed contracts worth approximately ₹1,577 crore with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and NIBE Private Limited for the procurement of Loiter Munition Systems for the Indian Army.
- The contracts, signed in New Delhi on 14 August 2026, also cover associated munitions and accessories. The signing ceremony took place in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.

- Loitering munitions are designed to provide precision-strike capability by allowing the munition to remain over an operational area for a period before engaging a designated target. The procurement is expected to strengthen the operational capabilities of the Indian Army's Artillery Regiments.
- The acquisition forms part of India's continuing effort to strengthen indigenous defence capabilities and improve the Army's operational preparedness.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. General Dhiraj Seth, Chief of the Army Staff, embarked on an official visit to which country from 17–19 August 2026?

- A) Bhutan
- B) Bangladesh
- C) Nepal
- D) Sri Lanka

Answer: C) Nepal

2. Which two companies announced a strategic partnership for the development and manufacture of an indigenous combat aircraft engine linked to the AMCA programme?

- A) HAL and Safran
- B) DRDO and Rolls-Royce

- C) Reliance Industries and Rolls-Royce
- D) Tata Advanced Systems and GE Aerospace

Answer: C) Reliance Industries and Rolls-Royce

3. What nuclear power capacity has India targeted to achieve by 2047?

- A) 50 GW
- B) 75 GW
- C) 100 GW
- D) 150 GW

Answer: C) 100 GW

4. The Ministry of Defence signed contracts worth approximately how much for Loiter Munition Systems for the Indian Army?

- A) ₹1,000 crore
- B) ₹1,250 crore
- C) ₹1,577 crore
- D) ₹2,000 crore

Answer: C) ₹1,577 crore

5. The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with which body of water?

- A) Red Sea
- B) Gulf of Aden
- C) Arabian Sea directly
- D) Gulf of Oman

Answer: D) Gulf of Oman

6. CRPF Motto Is

- A. Service Before Self
- B. Service and Loyalty
- C. We Protect
- D. Touch the sky with glory

ANSWER: B

7. ICGS Saksham Is A

- A. Destroyer

- B. Aircraft Carrier
- C. OPV
- D. Refueling Ship

ANSWER: C

8. "Nuclearization of Asia" Book Written By

- A.** Rene Naba
- B.** VR Chaudhari
- C.** Gen Parvez Musharraf
- D.** APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: A

9. Indian Coast Guard Formed On

- A. August 18, 1978
- B. September 18, 1978
- C. March 18, 1976
- D. April 18, 1976

ANSWER: A

10. 'MBT Bhishma' Is The Name Of :

- A. Fighter aircraft
- B. Tank
- C. Armoured vehicles
- D. Infantry regiments

ANSWER: B

11. Barak Is A

- A. Surface-to-air Missile
- B. Surface-to-Surface Missile
- C. Air-to-air Missile
- D. Surface-to-Sea Missile

ANSWER: A

12. "Ordnance Factory Day" in India Is Observed On

- A. 14 March
- B. 15 March
- C. 16 March
- D. 18 March

ANSWER: D

13. INS Valsura Located At

- A. Jamnagar, Gujrat
- B. Mumbai, M.H
- C. Kochi, Kerala
- D. A & NC

ANSWER: A

14. Exercise Maitree Conducted B/w India &

- A. Thailand
- B. Nepal
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Bhutan

ANSWER: A

15. Infantry School of Indian Army Is At

- A. Mhow
- B. Bhopal
- C. Gwalior
- D. Jammu

ANSWER: A

16. Officers Training Academy Is At

- A. Chennai
- B. Bhopal
- C. Gaya
- D. Both A & C

ANSWER: D

17. Northern Army Command Headquarters Is in

- A. Jaipur
- B. Udhampur
- C. Pune
- D. Lucknow

ANSWER: B

18. DF-41 ICBM Is A Missile Of

- A. India
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. North Korea

ANSWER: C

19. The IAI Heron UAV Developed By

- A. USA
- B. South Korea
- C. Israel
- D. China

ANSWER: C

20. Which Is Not The Commissioned Ranks In The Army Service?

- A. Brigadier
- B. Colonel
- C. General
- D. Commander

ANSWER: D