

Daily Defence Current Affairs

17 September 2026

COAS Dhiraj Seth Embarks On An Official Visit To Russia

- General Dhiraj Seth, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), is on an official visit to Russia from 16 to 18 September 2026, aimed at further strengthening the longstanding defence partnership and military-to-military cooperation between the two countries.
- During the visit, the COAS received a ceremonial Guard of Honour and pay tribute to the fallen soldiers at 'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier' at Moscow.
- The COAS will be visiting the National Defence Control Centre in Moscow and interact with senior officials of the Russian Ministry of Defence, including Mr Vasily Sergeyevich Osmakov, Deputy Minister of Defence, dealing with defence industry and procurement.
- The engagements will provide an opportunity to exchange perspectives on contemporary military developments and avenues for enhancing defence cooperation.
- As part of the visit, General Dhiraj Seth will also travel to Saint Petersburg, where he will visit the Mikhailovskaya Military Artillery Academy and interact with its leadership and faculty.
- The visit reflects the importance attached by both countries to sustained military diplomacy and Army-to-Army engagement. The interactions are expected to further deepen military cooperation and reinforce the enduring defence relationship between India and Russia.



Completion 'Aparajita - Parang La 2026'

- The All India Girls High Altitude Long Trek 'Aparajita - Parang La 2026', a flagship adventure activity of the **National Cadet Corps (NCC)** was flagged-in by DG NCC Lt Gen Virendra Vats and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence Smt Dipti Mohil Chawla at Karzok, Ladakh on September 16, 2026.
- During the expedition, the team comprising 20 NCC Girl Cadets selected from across the country traversed the Parang La Pass (5,578 metres), connecting the Spiti Valley of Himachal Pradesh with the Changthang region of Ladakh.
- Covering approximately 250 kilometres over 30 days, the route passed through high-altitude terrain including glaciers, snowfields and river valleys.
- Accompanied by officers, instructors, medical staff and support personnel, the team successfully completed the trek from Kibber in Himachal Pradesh to Karzok in Ladakh. The trek was flagged-off by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh from New Delhi on August 18, 2026.
- The trek was organised to promote participation of young women in adventure activities and provide exposure to challenging high-altitude conditions. It was

also aimed to strengthen national integration by bringing together cadets from different parts of the country.



43rd Indian Coast Guard Commanders' Conference

- The 43rd edition of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Commanders' Conference will be held at the Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi from September 17 to 19, 2026. Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth will address the senior leadership of the Service on the opening day.
- His interaction will reaffirm the Government's commitment to strengthening the Indian Coast Guard and enhancing its role in safeguarding maritime interests and national security.
- This apex annual gathering represents the highest level professional forum of the Indian Coast Guard, bringing together Senior Commanders from across the country to deliberate on strategic, operational, and administrative priorities.
- Over three days, the deliberations will focus on 'Current and emerging maritime security challenges'; 'Operational readiness and resource deployment'; 'Roadmap for capability enhancement and force modernisation'; and 'Organisational priorities aligned with national maritime strategy'.
- The Conference will also review ongoing initiatives aimed at bolstering indigenisation under the 'Make in India' programme, in line with the Government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

- It thus stands as a significant milestone in the continuing endeavour to build a stronger, modern, and future-ready Indian Coast Guard, dedicated to the protection of India's sovereign maritime interests.



US Confirms It Has Deployed Space Weapons

- The United States has weapons deployed in space, the US Space Force said in the first-ever acknowledgement of possessing such offensive capabilities. US Air Force Secretary **Troy Meink** said the "on-orbit" weapon was necessary to safeguard American forces against hostile enemies, in a not-so-subtle warning to China and Russia.
- Meink, who made the announcement at the annual Air, Space, and Cyber Conference at National Harbour in Maryland, did not specify what type of US weapon is in space. But he hinted that it will be used for "space control" against "evolving threats."
- Meink's remarks came as the Trump administration rushed to build outer space capabilities for its "Golden Dome" missile defence system to protect the US from missiles and other airborne threats.
- The **US Space Force** - the newest branch of the US military in more than 70 years - was launched in 2019 as a way to protect American assets in space, including hundreds of satellites used for communication and surveillance.
- **The Space Treaty**
- The militarisation of space is as old as the space race itself -- as soon as Sputnik was launched into orbit in 1957, Washington and Moscow began exploring ways to both arm and destroy satellites.

- The biggest worry was once about nuclear weapons in space, but the superpowers and other countries signed the **Outer Space Treaty in 1967**, banning weapons of mass destruction in orbit.
- Since then, global powers like the US, Russia, China, and India have been trying to develop capabilities outside the treaty, like ways to target rivals' satellites -- a key to military communications, surveillance and navigation.
- **What Russia and China Are Doing**
- Both Russia and China -- the two main geopolitical rivals of the United States -- pose potential threats to US interests in space.
- China "develops and operates space and counterspace capabilities as part of a military modernization strategy," while Russia "views space as a warfighting domain and believes space supremacy will be a decisive factor in future conflicts," according to the US Space Force.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q1. General Dhiraj Seth, Chief of the Army Staff, undertook an official visit to which country from 16–18 September 2026?

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

Answer: B. Russia

Q2. During his visit to Moscow, General Dhiraj Seth paid tribute to fallen soldiers at:

- A. Victory Park
- B. Kremlin Wall
- C. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- D. Red Square Memorial

Answer: C. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Q3. The 'Aparajita – Parang La 2026' expedition was organised by which organisation?

- A. Indian Army
- B. Border Security Force
- C. National Cadet Corps
- D. Indo-Tibetan Border Police

Answer: C. National Cadet Corps

Q4. At what altitude is the Parang La Pass traversed during the 'Aparajita – Parang La 2026' expedition?

- A. 4,578 metres
- B. 5,078 metres
- C. 5,578 metres
- D. 6,078 metres

Answer: C. 5,578 metres

Q5. The 43rd Indian Coast Guard Commanders' Conference 2026 is being held in:

- A. Mumbai
- B. Kochi
- C. New Delhi
- D. Visakhapatnam

Answer: C. New Delhi

Q6. Who is scheduled to address the 43rd Indian Coast Guard Commanders' Conference on its opening day?

- A. Rajnath Singh
- B. Sanjay Seth
- C. Dhiraj Seth
- D. Amit Shah

Answer: B. Sanjay Seth

Q7. Which US official confirmed that the United States has deployed an offensive weapon in orbit?

- A. Pete Hegseth
- B. Troy Meink
- C. Marco Rubio
- D. John Ratcliffe

Answer: B. Troy Meink

Q8. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 prohibits the placement of which type of weapons in orbit?

- A. Conventional weapons
- B. Cyber weapons
- C. Weapons of mass destruction
- D. Anti-satellite systems

Answer: C. Weapons of mass destruction

9. Joint Exercises B/w The India And UK Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Konkan Shakti

ANSWER: D

10. Where Is The Hq Of The Southwestern Command of The Indian Army?

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

ANSWER: A

11. Moroni Is The Capital Of

- A. Comoros
- B. Costa Rica
- C. Cuba
- D. Dominica

ANSWER: A

12. "An Introduction to Dreamland" Book Is Written By

- A. Bhagat Singh
- B. Leo Tolstoy
- C. Jules Verne
- D. Gunnar Myrdal

ANSWER: A

13. Current NSA Of India Is

- A. S Jaishankar
- B. Ajit Doval
- C. R Hari Kumar
- D. V R Chaudhari

ANSWER: B

14. Ex 'AUSINDEX' conducted b/w India &

- A. Angola
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. Australia

ANSWER: D

15. Current Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (India) Is

- A. Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar
- B. R Hari Kumar
- C. Karambir Lamba
- D. Sunil Singh

ANSWER: A

16. Joint Exercises B/w The India And USA Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Tiger Triumph

ANSWER: D

17. Where Is The Hq of The Eastern Command of The IAF?

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Shillong

D. Mumbai

ANSWER: C

18. Indian Military Academy Is Located At

A. Pune

B. Mumbai

C. Pune

D. Nagpur

ANSWER: A

19. Current Raksha Mantri Is

A. Rajnath Singh

B. Ajay Bhatt

C. Smirti Irani

D. Anurag Thakur

ANSWER: A

20. Ex 'Indra' Conducted b/w India &

A. Russia

B. Kyrgyzstan

C. UAE

D. Maldives

ANSWER: A