

CURRENT AFFAIRS: 16.06.2026

Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth Appointed as Army Chief

Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth has been appointed the **next Chief of the Army Staff** and will assume office on 30th June 2026, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi.



- **About:** He is a graduate of the **Higher Command Course and the National Defence College**, attended the Command and Staff Course in Paris, and also undertook defence acquisition training at the United States Naval Postgraduate School.
- **Career Distinction:** He will be the **third Army Chief** from the **2nd Lancers** after **General Maharaj Shri Rajendrasinhji Jadeja** and General Bipin Chandra Joshi.
 - He will be the **first Armoured Corps officer** to become Army Chief in **nearly three decades** after General Shankar Roy Chowdhury.
- **Army Command Roles:** He has commanded both **South Western Command and Southern Command**, a rare distinction of **leading two operational Army Commands** and providing strategic oversight across critical theatres for over two-and-a-half years.
- **Operational Legacy:** He headed Southern Command during **Operation Sindoor**, when formations were involved in securing Gujarat and Rajasthan sectors and countering Pakistani drones and aerial threats.
- **Honours:** He has served with the **United Nations Angola Verification Mission** and has been awarded the **Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal**.
- **Modernisation and Future Role:** He has held key staff and strategic appointments in the **Strategic Planning and Capability Development verticals** of Army Headquarters. As Army Chief, he is expected to **oversee technology absorption**, modern equipment induction, platform modernisation, force structuring and integration with the other services.

Concerns Over Dengue Vaccine DengiAll

Concerns have emerged about India's forthcoming dengue vaccine **DengiAll**, following reports of severe adverse events during Brazil's vaccination campaign with **Butantan-DV**, highlighting **antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE) risks, tetravalent vaccine efficacy, and the need for robust monitoring**.

- **Vaccine Type:** Both **DengiAll (India)** and **Butantan-DV (Brazil)** are **live-attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccines**, combining four weakened dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1, 2, 3, 4).
 - All four dengue serotypes are prevalent in Brazil and India, and their **envelope proteins differ enough** to require protection against each serotype separately; merely mixing four weakened viruses does not automatically guarantee balanced immunity.
- **Antibody Response:** Dengue vaccination can produce **type-specific antibodies**, which **block one serotype effectively**, and **cross-reactive antibodies**, which recognise all four serotypes but protect only when present at sufficiently high levels.

- **Antibody-Dependent Enhancement (ADE):** When **cross-reactive antibody levels fall**, they may enhance rather than block dengue infection, leading to **severe and potentially fatal dengue**; this phenomenon is called **antibody-dependent enhancement** and is treated as a serious adverse event.

Live-Attenuated Vaccines

- **About:** They contain a **weakened (attenuated) form of the disease-causing pathogen** that is still capable of limited replication but does not cause illness in healthy individuals.
 - Because they **closely mimic natural infection, they stimulate a strong and long-lasting immune response**, often providing durable protection against the disease.
- **Examples:** MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), varicella (chickenpox), and yellow fever vaccines.
- **Advantages:** Strong and durable immunity with fewer booster doses.
- **Limitations:** Not suitable for **immunocompromised individuals**, **require cold-chain storage**, and rarely may revert to virulent form.

Antyodaya as Governance Framework

- **Context (PIB):** Government highlighted progress of key initiatives under the Antyodaya framework in delivering last-mile public services to deprived communities.
- Antyodaya is a Gandhian principle, conceptualised by **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya**, meaning the upliftment of the last person in society. It replaces fragmented welfare schemes with a saturation approach to ensure 100% targeted coverage.
- The framework operationalises the Directive Principles, particularly **Article 38** (reducing inequalities) and **Article 46** (SC/ST economic interests).

Key Government Initiatives & Impacts

Target Groups	Key Schemes and Programs	Achievements
Tribal & Forest-Dwelling Communities	<u>PM-JANMAN (2023):</u> Delivers comprehensive infrastructure across 9 ministries for notified PVTGs. <u>PM-JUGA / DAJGUA (2024):</u> Supports mission-mode village infrastructure saturation across 17 ministries in tribal-majority areas. Eklavya Model Residential Schools: Provide quality secondary residential education for ST students. <u>Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) (2018):</u> Supports value addition, AYUSH branding, and marketing for Minor Forest Produce (MFP).	11 core interventions (housing, clean water, solar lighting) successfully deployed across 75 notified PVTGs in 18 states and 1 UT. 7.60 lakh houses completed in tribal villages. ~4,000 VDVks have been approved, linking over 11 lakh tribal beneficiaries.

Scheduled Castes, Minorities, & Nomadic Tribes	PM-AJAY (2021-22): Supports integrated socio-economic development of SC-majority villages. SHRESHTA (2022) & SHREYAS (2019): Provide residential school entry through NETS, top-class scholarships, and free coaching. PM VIKAS (2025): Provides industry-oriented skill training, including drone technology and graphic design. SEED Scheme (2022): Provides free coaching for competitive exams, livelihood assistance, and health insurance for DNTs.	Reached over 4 crore SC citizens and 83 lakh households. In 2025-26, SHRESHTA supported ~19000 SC students across 288 schools and institutions. As of 2026, over 12000 candidates have been trained. In 2025-26, ₹26.75 crore was disbursed to provide free coaching support to 4,485 DNT students.
Sanitation Workers	NAMASTE Scheme (2023-24): Provides institutional, financial & safety framework to replace manual interventions with mechanised cleaning.	Since 2024, waste pickers have also been included under the scheme.

Preventive Detention in India

- **Context (TH):** Allahabad HC criticised the misuse of preventive detention powers in the *Chander Pal Singh Case*, warning against routine executive detention for minor disputes.

About Preventive Detention

- Preventive detention is the practice of **detaining an individual without a trial** or a court conviction, based on executive **suspicion** of a future threat.
- District magistrates or delegated police authorities can detain a person to protect public order, but **must disclose detention grounds** in a language understandable to the detainee (Article 22(5)).
- Detention can last up to a year, but for **over 3 months**, it **needs Advisory Board approval**. (Article 22(4)).
- The **44th Amendment Act, 1978**, sought to reduce the period of unreviewed detention from 3 to **2 months**, but was **never enforced**.
- **Article 22** protects against arbitrary arrest and detention; its Clauses 3-7 regulate preventive detention.
- **Legislative Powers: Union List Entry 9** grants **Parliament exclusive power** over preventive detention related to defence, foreign affairs, and national security. **Concurrent List Entry 3** allows Parliament and the **states** to legislate on **state security, public order**, and **essential supplies**.

Key Concerns and Issues

- **Colonial Legacy:** These laws echo **Regulation III of 1818** and the **Rowlatt Act**, raising democratic concerns.
- **Executive Misuse:** Police use preventive detention to bypass evidence rules; **50% of detentions are quashed** by High Courts for lack of evidence.
- **Liberty Threat:** NCRB data reveals **over 1.2 lakh preventive detentions annually**, reflecting a systemic normalisation of incarceration without trial that erodes Article 21.
- **Ambiguous Terms:** Vague statutory terms such as “**public order**” allow executives to conflate routine law-and-order issues with genuine public threats.
- **Structural Gaps:** Delayed Advisory Board hearings cause arbitrary, unconstitutional detention periods.

Major Judicial Landmarks

A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras (1950): Upheld preventive detention, adopting a narrow view of personal liberty.

Shibban Lal Saxena v. State of UP (1954): Held that a single irrelevant ground can invalidate the entire detention order.

Rekha v. State of Tamil Nadu (2011): Established that preventive detention should be an exceptional measure, not a regular policing tool.

Dhanya M vs State of Kerala (2025): Quashed the detention, distinguishing public-order threats from ordinary law-and-order issues.