

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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India to Procure 80 Medium Transport Aircraft

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is preparing to initiate the long-awaited procurement of up to 80 medium transport aircraft (MTA) for the IAF. This multi-billion-dollar contract, one of the largest global tenders in the transport aircraft segment, aims to significantly enhance India's strategic and tactical airlift capabilities over the next decade.
- The new fleet will replace the ageing Soviet-origin An-32s, which have served the IAF reliably for over four decades but are nearing the end of their operational lives.
- Three leading global aircraft manufacturers are set to compete aggressively for the order: Lockheed Martin's C-130J Super Hercules (USA), Embraer's KC-390 Millennium (Brazil), and Airbus Defence & Space's A400M Atlas (Europe). Each contender brings distinctive advantages in payload, endurance, and mission flexibility, catering to different strategic requirements.
- The C-130J, already in IAF service with 12 units, offers proven performance, battlefield versatility, and established logistics support within the existing ecosystem.
- Industry officials suggest that the MTA tender could be valued between 6 to 8 billion US dollars, depending on configuration, technology transfer, and localisation levels. The final evaluation will emphasise lifecycle costs, operational performance, and industrial participation, in line with the government's Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives.



Gridbots Unveils HAWK-BD

- Ahmedabad-based defence robotics manufacturer Gridbots has introduced HAWK-BD, an indigenous Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) robot designed to enhance India's counter-IED and hazardous operations capability.
- The platform showcases a modular, semi-autonomous design, built to meet the operational needs of the military, paramilitary, and law enforcement units engaged in high-risk bomb disposal and reconnaissance tasks.
- HAWK-BD is engineered as a versatile multi-mission unmanned ground system capable of executing EOD, IED neutralisation, reconnaissance, and hazardous substance inspections without endangering operators.
- Its robust chassis and independent drive system allow stable mobility across uneven terrain, rubble, or confined urban environments, providing high operational reach in real-world threat conditions.
- HAWK-BD integrates a comprehensive visual awareness suite comprising high-definition day and night cameras alongside thermal imaging sensors for low-visibility and night-time operations. Its multi-camera feed allows a 360-degree situational view, supporting detailed on-site assessment while maintaining safe operator standoff.



Ex Mitra Shakti

- India and Sri Lanka kick-started a two-week military exercise in Karnataka's Belagavi as part of efforts to enhance interoperability. The scope of the **11th edition of 'Mitra Shakti' exercise** includes synergising joint responses during counter-terrorist operations, the Indian Army said.

- The Indian contingent of 170 personnel is being represented mainly by troops from the Rajput Regiment, while the Sri Lankan side is being represented by 135 personnel from the Gajaba Regiment, it said.
- Twenty personnel from the Indian Air Force and 10 from Sri Lankan Air Force are also participating in the exercise.
- "Both sides will practice tactical actions such as raid, search and destroy missions, heliborne operations, etc," the Army said. Exercise Mitra Shakti will also involve employment of drones and counter unmanned aerial systems besides helicopters, it said.



India–Armenia Defence Partnership Nears \$4 Billion Deal

- India and Armenia are close to signing a comprehensive set of defence MoUs valued between \$3.5 and \$4 billion, marking the largest Indo-Armenian military cooperation initiative to date.
- The agreements are designed to modernise Armenia's air defence, missile systems, and artillery capabilities amid heightened regional security concerns.
- The proposed package places strong emphasis on layered air defence integration, where Akash-NG (Next Generation) is being actively discussed for deployment. The medium-range surface-to-air missile system, developed by DRDO and produced by Bharat Dynamics Limited, is expected to form the cornerstone of Armenia's revamped air defence network, providing protection against hostile aircraft, drones, and precision-guided munitions.

- Negotiations are simultaneously progressing on co-production arrangements for BrahMos components in Armenia. This initiative would enable Armenia to acquire a critical technological and industrial foothold in supersonic cruise missile manufacturing, with both nations exploring shared production and assembly lines within Armenian defence facilities.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which aircraft is being considered to replace the ageing An-32 fleet of the Indian Air Force?
A. Boeing C-17 Globemaster III
B. Lockheed Martin C-130J Super Hercules
C. Airbus A400M Atlas
D. Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA)

ANSWER: D

2. What is the estimated value of India's Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA) procurement project?
A. \$2–3 billion
B. \$4–5 billion
C. \$6–8 billion
D. \$10–12 billion

ANSWER: C

3. What is the main purpose of Gridbots' newly unveiled HAWK BD robot?
A. Underwater mine detection
B. Explosive Ordnance Disposal and hazardous operations

- C. Aerial surveillance and drone jamming
- D. Battlefield logistics and supply transport

ANSWER: B

4. Exercise Mitra Shakti 2025 is conducted between which two countries?

- A. India and Bangladesh
- B. India and Sri Lanka
- C. India and Nepal
- D. India and Bhutan

ANSWER: B

5. Which missile system is being considered as part of the India–Armenia defence deal?

- A. Akash-NG
- B. Astra Mk-II
- C. Nirbhay
- D. Prithvi-II

ANSWER: A

6. Defence Institute of Physiology & Allied Sciences Is A Operating Agency Of

- A. ISRO
- B. BDL
- C. DRDO
- D. CSL

ANSWER: C

7. Ex 'BLUE FLAG' Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. Israel
- D. Kazakhstan

ANSWER: C

8. Which Organisation Manufactured Tejas Mark-2 Fighter Jets?

- A. BEL
- B. BDL
- C. HAL

D. DRDO

ANSWER: C

9. Udarshakti Is A Bilateral Exercise Which Held Between India And Which Other Country?

- A. Malaysia
- B. Singapore
- C. Russia
- D. Japan

ANSWER: A

10. What Is The Name Of The Submarine Which Has been Decommissioned From The Indian Navy?

- A.** INS Rajput
- B.** INS Nishank
- C.** INS Sindhudhvaj
- D.** INS Ranjit

ANSWER: C

11. Heron MK II Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: C

12. Chabahar Port Is Located In

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. Iran

ANSWER: D

13. Pratap Chandra Lal Was A Former Chief Of

- A. IAF
- B. Indian Army
- C. Indian Navy

D. BSF

ANSWER: A

14. Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission Is A Space Agency Of

A. USA

B. Pakistan

C. China

D. Bhutan

ANSWER: B

15. RS-28 Sarmat "Satan 2" Is A

A. Helicopter

B. Machine Gun

C. Missile

D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: C

16. BELMOPAN Is The Capital Of

A. BELIZE

B. BENIN

C. BHUTAN

D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

17. "The Living Mountain" Book Written By

A. JK Rowling

B. Aakash Ranison

C. Hew Strachan

D. Amitav Ghosh

ANSWER: D

18. Joint Exercises B/w India And Sri Lanka Is Called:

A. Ashoka

B. SLINEX

C. Indra

D. MITRA SHAKTI

ANSWER: B&D

19. India Purchased Sig Sauer Assault Rifles From

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

20. India Purchased MH Romeo 64 Helicopter from

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. Russia

ANSWER: A