

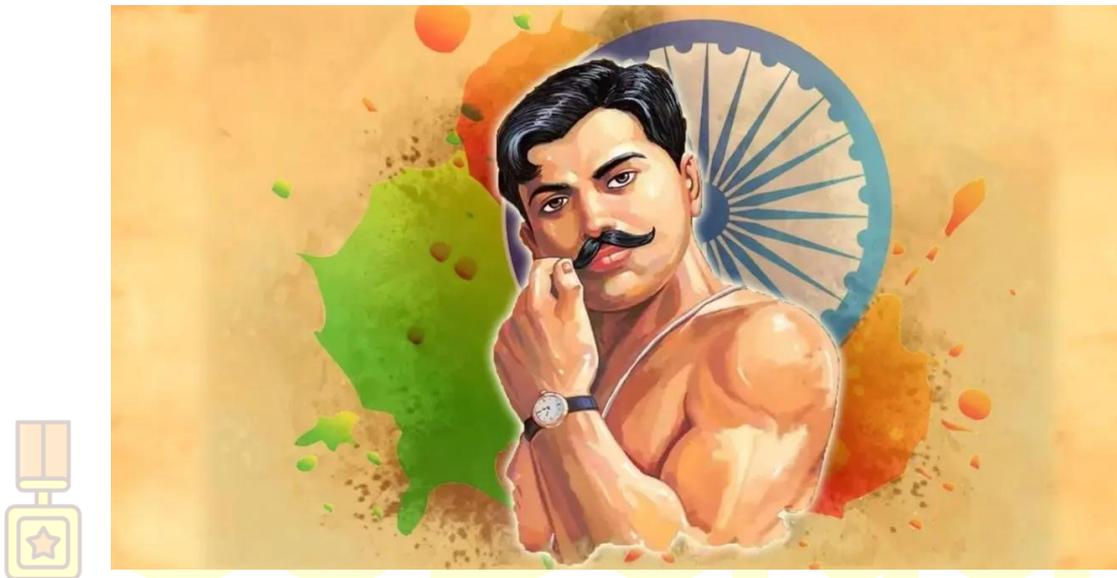
Daily Defence Current Affairs

27 February 2025

95th Martyrdom Day of Chandra Shekhar Azad

- On 27 February 2025 India observed the 95th martyrdom day of Chandra Shekhar Azad, one of the most fearless revolutionaries of the Indian freedom struggle. Political leaders across parties paid tribute to his courage and sacrifice.
- Azad, who vowed never to be captured alive by the British, kept his promise till his last breath in 1931. His life remains a symbol of uncompromising patriotism and revolutionary spirit in India's struggle for independence.
- Chandra Shekhar Azad was born as Chandrashekhar Tiwari on 23 July 1906 in Bhabra (now in Madhya Pradesh). He became one of the most prominent revolutionary leaders during India's independence movement.
- He earned the name "Azad" (meaning Free) at the age of 15 when arrested during the Non-Cooperation Movement. When presented before a magistrate, he declared,
 - His name was "Azad."
 - His father's name was "Swatantra."
 - His address was "Jail."
- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre deeply influenced young Azad.
- He joined Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22) as a teenager.
- However, after Gandhi suspended the movement following the Chauri Chaura incident (1922), Azad became disillusioned with non-violent methods and shifted towards revolutionary nationalism.
- He later joined the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA), which aimed to overthrow British rule through armed resistance.

- One of Azad’s major revolutionary actions was the Kakori Train Conspiracy (1925) where HRA members looted a train carrying British government funds to finance their activities.
- Most conspirators were arrested, but Azad managed to escape.
- He remained underground for years, frequently changing disguises and names.
- His agility earned him the nickname “Quick Silver.”



International Polar Bear Day 2026

EXAMS

- International Polar Bear Day is observed every year on February 27 to raise awareness about the impact of climate change and shrinking sea ice on polar bear populations. The day is organized by Polar Bears International, a global conservation group dedicated to protecting polar bears and their Arctic habitat.
- International Polar Bear Day is observed every year on February 27.
- The annual event is dedicated to raising awareness about the conservation status of polar bears and the urgent threats they face due to climate change.
- The primary objectives of the day include,
 - Raising awareness about global warming and its impact on polar bear populations
 - Highlighting the effects of reduced sea ice in the Arctic
 - Promoting protection of polar bear moms and cubs during the denning period

- Sharing scientific research that informs polar bear conservation



World NGO Day 2026

- World NGO Day 2026 will be observed on Friday 27 February 2026. This global observance recognizes the powerful role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in transforming societies.
- World NGO Day 2026 will be celebrated globally on 27 February 2026, continuing its annual tradition.
- The observance provides an international platform to acknowledge NGOs working across sectors and continents.
- Every year, World NGO Day highlights the collective efforts of organizations that address social inequalities, disaster relief, poverty reduction, and sustainable development.
- The 2026 observance focuses strongly on awareness and advocacy, encouraging people worldwide to understand how NGOs contribute to long-term global progress.



WORLD NGO DAY FEBRUARY 27

Operation Ghazab lil-Haq

- Pakistan has launched a major cross-border military offensive dubbed Operation Ghazab lil-Haq, marking a dramatic escalation in tensions with Afghanistan. The operation began in the early hours of Friday on 26th February 2026 after Islamabad accused the Afghan Taliban of initiating “unprovoked firing” along multiple sectors of the volatile border.
- Operation Ghazab lil-Haq, which loosely translates to “**Wrath for Justice**,” is a large-scale military campaign launched by Pakistan against alleged Afghan Taliban positions.
- The escalation comes despite a fragile ceasefire agreement reached in October following deadly cross-border clashes.
- The Pakistan–Afghanistan border stretches approximately 1,600 miles (2,574 km) across rugged mountainous terrain.
- The region has long been a hotspot for militancy, smuggling, and insurgent movements.



India-Israel Strategic Partnership

- The bilateral relationship between India and Israel has reached a historic milestone. Following high-level talks between PM Narendra Modi and PM Benjamin Netanyahu in February 2026, the two nations have officially upgraded their ties to a **Special Strategic Partnership**.
- **The Partnership:** NPCI International (NIPL) has signed a definitive agreement with MASAV, Israel's central payment processor.
- **Seamless Transactions:** This allows Indian tourists and professionals to use UPI for merchant payments and enables a low-cost corridor for cross-border remittances.
- **Negotiation Status:** The first comprehensive round of FTA negotiations concluded on February 26, 2026.
- **Current Trade:** Bilateral merchandise trade stood at \$3.62 billion in FY 2024-25.
- **Labor Mobility:** A crucial pact was signed to allow 50,000 additional Indian workers into Israel over the next five years, primarily to bolster Israel's manufacturing sector.
- **Emerging Tech:** Joint declarations on Quantum Computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- **Energy Security:** A new framework for cooperation in Civil Nuclear Energy and maritime heritage protection.
- **Critical Minerals:** Strategic collaboration to secure supply chains for minerals essential to EV battery production.



India & Germany Join Forces As Climate Resilience

- India and Germany have strengthened their climate partnership with a new EUR 20 million initiative aimed at boosting climate resilience in vulnerable ecosystems. This announcement was made during a high level Climate Talk in New Delhi.
- The funding will be provided by under Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI) and will support India's efforts to implement its upcoming National Adaptation Plan (NAP).
- **Funding Volume:** Up to EUR 20 million
- **Funding Source:** Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI)
- **Focus:** Climate resilience and ecosystem-based adaptation
- **Target Areas:** Himalayas, Western Ghats, North-East, island regions, Lower Gangetic floodplains



President Murmu Flies 'Prachand'

- Honorable President of India Droupadi Murmu made history on 27 February 2026 by flying a 25-minute sortie in the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) 'Prachand' near the India-Pakistan border in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- Clad in an olive green flying suit, she flew as co pilot from the Jaisalmer Air Force Station. With this flight, she became the first Indian President to undertake a sortie in an attack helicopter, marking a significant moment for India's defence and indigenous military capabilities.
- The LCH Prachand is the India's first indigenously designed and developed combat helicopter. It has been built by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- Key features of LCH Prachand include,
 - Advanced avionics and stealth characteristics
 - Night attack capability
 - Air to air and air to ground missiles
 - 20 mm turret gun and rockets
 - High altitude operational capabilities



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The 95th Martyrdom Day observed on 27 February 2025 was related to which revolutionary?

- A) Bhagat Singh
- B) Ram Prasad Bismil
- C) Chandra Shekhar Azad
- D) Sukhdev

Answer: C) Chandra Shekhar Azad

Explanation: 27 February marks the martyrdom day of Chandra Shekhar Azad, who died in 1931 while fighting British forces in Allahabad.

2. The Kakori Train Conspiracy (1925) was associated with which organization?

- A) Indian National Army
- B) Hindustan Republican Association
- C) Ghadar Party
- D) Swaraj Party

Answer: B) Hindustan Republican Association

Explanation: The Kakori Train Conspiracy was carried out by members of the Hindustan Republican Association to secure funds for revolutionary activities.

3. International Polar Bear Day is observed annually on:

- A) 24 February
- B) 26 February
- C) 27 February
- D) 28 February

Answer: C) 27 February

Explanation: International Polar Bear Day is observed every year on 27 February and is organized by Polar Bears International to spread awareness about climate change and Arctic conservation.

4. World NGO Day is celebrated globally on:

- A) 21 February
- B) 25 February
- C) 26 February
- D) 27 February

Answer: D) 27 February

Explanation: World NGO Day is observed annually on 27 February to recognize the contributions of non-governmental organizations worldwide.

5. Operation 'Ghazab lil-Haq' was launched by which country in February 2026?

- A) Afghanistan
- B) Iran
- C) Pakistan
- D) India

Answer: C) Pakistan

Explanation: Operation Ghazab lil-Haq was reportedly launched by Pakistan amid rising tensions along the Pakistan–Afghanistan border.

6. India and Israel upgraded their bilateral ties in February 2026 to which level?

- A) Strategic Partnership
- B) Comprehensive Economic Partnership
- C) Special Strategic Partnership
- D) Defence Cooperation Treaty

Answer: C) Special Strategic Partnership

Explanation: Following talks between Narendra Modi and Benjamin Netanyahu, India–Israel relations were elevated to a Special Strategic Partnership.

7. NPCI International signed an agreement with which Israeli payment processor?

- A) Bank Leumi
- B) Tel Aviv Payments Ltd
- C) MASAV
- D) Israel Digital Authority

Answer: C) MASAV

Explanation: NPCI International signed an agreement with MASAV to enable UPI-based transactions and cross-border remittances.

8. The EUR 20 million climate resilience initiative for India is funded under which German program?

- A) Green Climate Fund
- B) International Climate Initiative
- C) Climate Adaptation Mission Europe
- D) Global Biodiversity Fund

Answer: B) International Climate Initiative

Explanation: Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI) is funding the EUR 20 million project to support India's climate adaptation efforts.

9. The Light Combat Helicopter 'Prachand' has been developed by:

- A) DRDO
- B) ISRO
- C) Bharat Electronics Limited
- D) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Answer: D) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Explanation: The LCH 'Prachand' is India's first indigenously developed combat helicopter built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

10. Who became the first Indian President to undertake a sortie in an attack helicopter?

- A) Pratibha Patil
- B) Ram Nath Kovind
- C) Droupadi Murmu
- D) A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Answer: C) Droupadi Murmu

Explanation: On 27 February 2026, Droupadi Murmu flew in the LCH 'Prachand,' becoming the first Indian President to undertake a sortie in an attack helicopter.