

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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DRDO inks Two Major Contracts With Industry Partners

- In a significant boost to Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Centre for Air Borne Systems (CABS), DRDO has signed a contract with AI Engineering Services Limited (AIESL), New Delhi for the conversion of six A321 Aircraft from commercial to green configuration, further leading to the development and production of Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) MKII Programme.
- A separate contract was inked with Adani Defence Systems and Technologies (ADSTL), Ahmedabad to engage with the company as Development Cum Production Partner (DcPP) for Mission Systems designed for the AEW&C MKII Programme.
- The contracts were signed by Director CABS with CEO, AIESL and Head-Airborne Platform, ADSTL in the presence of Defence Secretary and Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi on July 22, 2026.
- CABS, DRDO with support from ADSTL as DcPP is responsible for integration of mission systems on modified AEW&C MK II Platform, delivered by Airbus Defence & Space (Original Equipment Manufacturer).
- CABS and ADSTL will also carry out flight testing of the AEW&C MK II aircraft along with the Indian Air Force to obtain certification from airworthiness agencies - Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification and Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance.
- AEW&C Mk II System from DRDO with CABS as the nodal laboratory will provide enhanced endurance, advanced airborne surveillance, secure communication, improved situational awareness and enhanced command and control capabilities.
- This, in turn, will give a significant boost to the air defence capabilities and aid in neutralising threats across extended ranges.



Tri-service All-women Circumnavigation Sailing Expedition

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh flagged-in 'Samudra Pradakshina', the first ever Tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition through video conferencing on July 22, 2026.
- Aboard the Indian Army Sailing Vessel (IASV) Triveni, nine women officers of the three Services returned to Mumbai after successfully completing a 314-day voyage covering nearly 25,500 nautical miles across four oceans.
- The expedition was virtually flagged off by Shri Rajnath Singh on September 11, 2025 from Mumbai.
- Speaking on the occasion, Raksha Mantri described the successful completion of the expedition as a testament to India's Nari Shakti, a symbol of the nation's resolve, a proof of the effectiveness of Tri-Service synergy & jointness, and a celebration of 'New India' that overcomes challenges to script history.
- Beyond its remarkable maritime achievement, Samudra Pradakshina' emerged as a significant instrument of military diplomacy. During port calls across the globe, IASV Triveni showcased India's rich cultural heritage, maritime traditions, military professionalism and enduring values, while fostering goodwill with friendly nations.

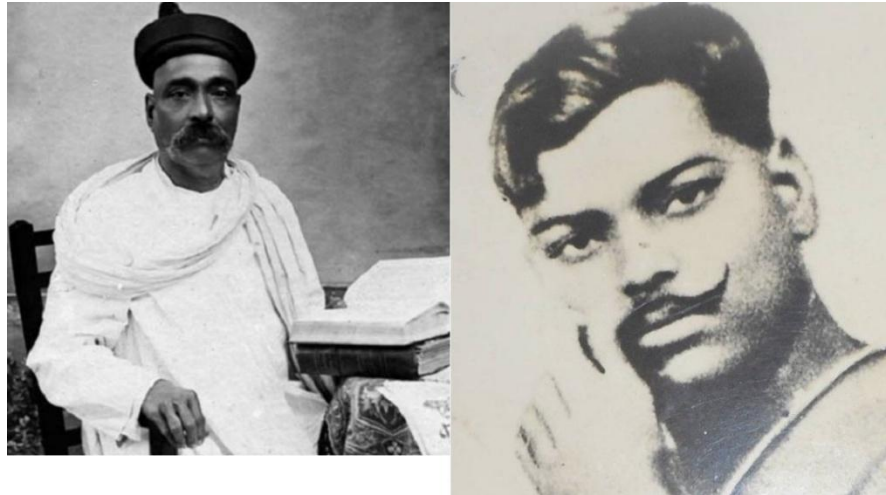


PM Pays Tributes to Lokmanya Tilak & Chandra Shekhar Azad on His Birth Anniversary

- PM Narendra Modi paid homage to Chandra Shekhar Azad on his birth anniversary. He stated that the fearless courage and unwavering patriotism of Chandra Shekhar Azad occupy a proud place in the history of India's freedom struggle.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today tributes to Lokmanya Tilak on his birth anniversary. He stated that as a towering figure of India's freedom struggle, Lokmanya Tilak awakened the spirit of nationalism and inspired generations to dedicate themselves to the service of people.
- **Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak (1856–1920)**
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak, popularly known as **Lokmanya Tilak**, was one of the foremost leaders of India's freedom struggle. He was a teacher, lawyer, journalist, social reformer, and nationalist who inspired millions to fight against British rule.
- **Key Facts**
- **Born:** 23 July 1856, Ratnagiri, Maharashtra
- **Died:** 1 August 1920, Mumbai
- **Profession:** Lawyer, Journalist, Freedom Fighter
- **Popular Title:** *Lokmanya* ("Accepted by the People")
- **Political Ideology:** Assertive Nationalism
- **Major Contributions**
- Coined the famous slogan:
- **"Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it."**
- Founded the newspapers:
- **Kesari** (Marathi)
- **The Mahratta** (English)
- Started the **Ganesh Utsav (1893)** and **Shivaji Festival (1895)** to unite people against British rule.
- Co-founded the **Deccan Education Society**.
- One of the **Lal-Bal-Pal** trio:
- Lala Lajpat Rai
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- Bipin Chandra Pal
- Authored important books:
- **Gita Rahasya**
- **The Arctic Home in the Vedas**
- Imprisoned in **Mandalay Jail (Myanmar)** from **1908–1914**, where he wrote *Gita Rahasya*.

- Played a leading role in the **Home Rule Movement (1916)**.
- **Significance**
- Known as the "**Father of Indian Unrest**" (a title given by British writer Valentine Chirol).
- Inspired generations of revolutionaries and nationalist leaders.
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- **Chandra Shekhar Azad (1906–1931)**
- Chandra Shekhar Azad was one of India's greatest revolutionary freedom fighters. He devoted his life to the struggle for India's independence through revolutionary activities.
- **Key Facts**
- **Born:** 23 July 1906, Bhabhra (now Chandra Shekhar Azad Nagar), Madhya Pradesh
- **Died:** 27 February 1931, Alfred Park (now Chandra Shekhar Azad Park), Prayagraj
- **Organization:** Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)
- **Why He Was Called "Azad"**
- At the age of 15, after participating in the **Non-Cooperation Movement**, he was arrested. When questioned in court, he declared:
- **Name:** Azad (Free)
- **Father's Name:** Swatantrata (Freedom)
- **Address:** Jail
- Since then, he became known as **Chandra Shekhar Azad**.
- **Major Contributions**
- Reorganized the **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)** into the **HSRA**.
- Worked closely with revolutionaries such as:
- Bhagat Singh
- Sukhdev Thapar
- Shivaram Rajguru
- Participated in the **Kakori Train Action (1925)**.
- Helped plan the **Lahore Conspiracy Case** associated with the killing of British police officer J. P. Saunders in 1928.
- **Martyrdom**
- On **27 February 1931**, British police surrounded him in **Alfred Park, Prayagraj**.
- He fought bravely and, determined never to be captured alive, used his last bullet on himself after exhausting his ammunition.
- The park where he made his final stand is now called **Chandra Shekhar Azad Park**.
- **Legacy**

- Remembered as a symbol of courage, patriotism, and sacrifice.
- His life continues to inspire young Indians to serve the nation with dedication.



US House Narrowly Passes Record \$1.15 Trillion Defense Bill

- The US House of Representatives narrowly passed an annual defense policy bill on Wednesday that would authorize a record \$1.15 trillion in funding for the Pentagon, as the divisive Iran war drags on.
- Though it traditionally sees significant bipartisan support, the 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) passed the lower chamber in a 216-212 vote, a sign of the growing polarization under President Donald Trump.
- The bill, which must still pass the Senate, provides approximately \$250 billion more than the 2026 NDAA, including a 5-7 percent pay raise for service members.
- Trump has sought to develop the so-called Golden Dome missile defense system to protect the US mainland, modeled after Israel's "Iron Dome."
- Democratic Representative Jerry Nadler, for his part, said he could not vote to give Trump and his Defense chief Pete Hegseth "\$1.15 TRILLION for their out-of-control military spending and irresponsible actions."
- Trump's prized "SAVE America Act," which would enact new nationwide voting restrictions, was added to the NDAA through a procedural maneuver, raising the ire of Democrats and further complicating the bill's passage in the Senate.



HAL, French Major Safran Sign Contract for Engine Turbine Forgings

- HAL on Wednesday said it signed a long-term agreement with Safran Aircraft Engines for the production and supply of turbine ring forgings in superalloys for the 'CFM LEAP' engine programme.
- Under the agreement, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will manufacture near-net shape ring forgings for the Leading-Edge Aviation Propulsion (LEAP) engine at its state-of-the-art Ring Rolling facility at HAL's Foundry and Forge Division in Bengaluru.
- These superalloy ring forgings are used in elevated-temperature applications of the rotating section of the aero-engine and are critical to engine performance and reliability, the company said in a release.
- "HAL and Safran share a longstanding and trusted partnership that has evolved over several decades. The signing of this long-term contract reflects the growing confidence of global aerospace OEMs in HAL's technological capabilities and manufacturing excellence."



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which DRDO laboratory signed contracts for the development of the AEW&C Mk-II Programme?

- A) ADE
- B) LRDE
- C) CABS
- D) DRDL

Answer: C) CABS

2. AI Engineering Services Limited (AIESL) will convert how many Airbus A321 aircraft into green configuration for the AEW&C Mk-II programme?

- A) 4
- B) 5
- C) 6
- D) 8

Answer: C) 6

3. Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited (ADSTL) has been selected as the _____ for the AEW&C Mk-II programme.

- A) Original Equipment Manufacturer
- B) Development-cum-Production Partner
- C) Maintenance Partner
- D) Flight Certification Agency

Answer: B) Development-cum-Production Partner

4. Which organisation will provide the modified aircraft platform for the AEW&C Mk-II programme?

- A) Boeing
- B) HAL
- C) Airbus Defence & Space
- D) Embraer

Answer: C) Airbus Defence & Space

5. The contracts related to the AEW&C Mk-II programme were signed in:

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Mumbai
- D) New Delhi

Answer: D) New Delhi

6. AEW&C Mk-II is primarily designed to enhance India's:

- A) Naval logistics
- B) Airborne surveillance and command capabilities
- C) Space exploration
- D) Missile manufacturing

Answer: B) Airborne surveillance and command capabilities

7. What is the name of India's first Tri-Service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition?

- A) Sagar Kavach
- B) Samudra Shakti
- C) Samudra Pradakshina
- D) Samudra Vijay

Answer: C) Samudra Pradakshina

8. The Samudra Pradakshina expedition was undertaken aboard which vessel?

- A) INS Tarini
- B) INSV Tarini
- C) IASV Triveni
- D) INS Sudarshini

Answer: C) IASV Triveni

9. The all-women Tri-Service sailing expedition lasted for approximately:

A) 180 days

B) 240 days

C) 314 days

D) 365 days

Answer: C) 314 days

10. The Samudra Pradakshina expedition covered nearly:

A) 18,000 nautical miles

B) 21,000 nautical miles

C) 25,500 nautical miles

D) 30,000 nautical miles

Answer: C) 25,500 nautical miles

11. The Samudra Pradakshina expedition was flagged in by:

A) President Droupadi Murmu

B) Prime Minister Narendra Modi

C) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

D) Chief of Defence Staff

Answer: C) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Lokmanya Tilak and Chandra Shekhar Azad on:

A) Independence Day

B) Martyrs' Day

C) Their birth anniversaries

D) Republic Day

Answer: C) Their birth anniversaries

13. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was born on:

A) 15 August 1857

B) 23 July 1856

C) 26 January 1858

D) 1 August 1856

Answer: B) 23 July 1856

14. Which famous slogan is associated with Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak?

A) Do or Die

B) Jai Hind

C) Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it

D) Inquilab Zindabad

Answer: C) Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it

15. Chandra Shekhar Azad was associated with which revolutionary organisation?

A) Ghadar Party

B) Indian National Army

C) Hindustan Socialist Republican Association

D) Anushilan Samiti

Answer: C) Hindustan Socialist Republican Association

16. Chandra Shekhar Azad attained martyrdom at:

A) Jallianwala Bagh

B) Cellular Jail

C) Alfred Park, Prayagraj

D) Sabarmati Ashram

Answer: C) Alfred Park, Prayagraj

17. The US House of Representatives approved a defence authorization bill worth approximately:

A) \$850 billion

B) \$950 billion

C) \$1.15 trillion

D) \$1.50 trillion

Answer: C) \$1.15 trillion

18. The US defence bill approved by the House is officially known as the:

A) Defence Procurement Act

B) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

C) Homeland Security Act

D) Pentagon Reform Act

Answer: B) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

19. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed a long-term agreement with which French aerospace company?

A) Dassault Aviation

B) Airbus

C) Safran Aircraft Engines

D) Thales

Answer: C) Safran Aircraft Engines

20. Under the HAL-Safran agreement, HAL will manufacture turbine ring forgings for which aircraft engine programme?

A) EJ200

B) GE F414

C) CFM LEAP

D) Trent XWB

Answer: C) CFM LEAP