

Daily Current Affairs

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Government Appoints Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit As CAS

- The Government has appointed Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, PVSM, AVSM, VM, VSM, presently serving as Vice Chief of the Air Staff as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff, in the rank of Air Chief Marshal, with effect from the afternoon of October 31, 2026.
- The present Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh superannuates from office on October 31, 2026.
- Born on December 09, 1966, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit was commissioned into the fighter stream of Indian Air Force on December 06, 1986.
- Prior to assuming charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Dixit served as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) at Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) and Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command.



SAREX-2026

- Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth will inaugurate the 12th National Maritime Search & Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2026) on 07 October 26, and witness SAR Demo off Paradip coast on 08 October 26 being organized by the Indian Coast Guard.
- A key highlight of this exercise is the international participation of 32 observers from 30 countries, underscoring the cooperative protocols, strategic importance, and global interoperability of the drill.
- SAREX-2026 will be one of the largest and most complex SAR exercises ever conducted in the region, deploying 15 Coast Guard ships, two Dornier aircraft, three ALH, a Chetak helicopter, IAF C-130J and Mi-17 aircraft, two Indian Navy ships, civil/state assets, and shore-based support units.
- The exercise will simulate a Mass Rescue Operation involving concurrent aeronautical and maritime distress situations; including ditching of a passenger aircraft at sea with 228 persons onboard and its impact with container vessel MV Zumba.
- The Indian Coast Guard will also convene the 24th National Maritime Search & Rescue (NMSAR) Board Meeting at Bhubaneswar under the Chairmanship of Director General Paramesh Sivamani, Director General, Indian Coast Guard.
- The 24th NMSAR Board Meeting and SAREX-2026 highlight India's resolve to build a faster, technology-enabled and internationally connected SAR framework, in consonance with the vision of SAGAR and the spirit of MAHASAGAR.



Joint Indo-Argentine Army Mountaineering Expedition

- General Dhiraj Seth flagged in members of the Joint Indo-Argentine Army Mountaineering Expedition in New Delhi, following their successful ascent of Mt Abi Gamin (7,355 metres) on 17 September and Mt Kamet (7,756 metres) on 21 September 2026.
- Mt Kamet located in Chamoli district, Uttarakhand is the third-highest peak in India after Mt Kanchenjunga and Mt Nanda Devi.
- The 35-member expedition, led by Lieutenant Colonel Chirag Chatterjee, comprising 25 personnel of the Indian Army and 10 personnel of the Argentine Army was flagged off from the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, on 21 August 2026.
- The expedition is the third joint mountaineering venture between the two Armies, following earlier two expeditions to Mt Aconcagua (6,962 metres) in Mendoza, Argentina, in January 2025 and Mt Kun (7,077 metres) in the Suru Valley, Ladakh, in August 2025.



Maiden Live Jump of Advanced High-Altitude Parachute

- DRDO conducted the maiden live jump of the Advanced High-Altitude Parachute at one of the highest-altitude drop zones, Nyoma (Mudh DZ).
- The jump was executed at 16,000 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The parachute was deployed at 15500 feet AMSL and landing was undertaken at Nyoma (Mudh DZ) which is at 13,700 feet.

- The jump proved the efficacy and tactical employability of the AHAP parachute at extremely High-Altitude Terrains.
- Designed and developed by Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra, AHAP is a static line parachute system for mass drop of paratroopers.



DRDO Conducts Flight Trial of High-Altitude Platform

- DRDO has carried out the successful flight trial of indigenously developed High-Altitude Platform (HAPS).
- The experimental flight attained an altitude of 21 km above mean sea level (AMSL) and remained at an altitude of 20 km AMSL for more than 30 minutes, before it was commanded to descend back to ground.
- Real-time video data and all other vehicle parameters were acquired from the Airborne platform at Ground Control Station during the entire flight, which showed intended flight performance.
- The High-Altitude Platform, a lighter than air system as a long endurance stratospheric aerial surveillance platform, is being designed and developed by Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra.



MoD Signs Rs 661 Crore Contract

- The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) for procurement of BrahMos Fire Control System and Launchers for Indian Navy ships under Buy (Indian-IDDMM) Category, on October 6, 2026 in New Delhi.
- Valued at Rs 661.50 crore, the contract was inked in the presence of Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh.
- With a minimum 68% indigenous content, the project encourages active participation of various Indian industries including MSMEs. The project will generate employment over a period of three years.
- It also bolsters India's maritime security architecture and defence capabilities and marks a critical milestone in the ongoing efforts to indigenise advanced military technology.
- The BrahMos System fitted onboard various frontline warships is the Indian Navy's primary Surface to Surface Missile (SSM) system for maritime strike operations. The weapon system is capable of targeting land and sea targets from extended ranges with pinpoint accuracy at supersonic speed.



Raksha Mantri Launches First Indigenous Fleet Support Ship ‘Surya’

- Rajnath Singh launched the first Fleet Support Ship (FSS-1), laid the keel of the fifth Fleet Support Ship (FSS-5) and inaugurated the upgraded Slipway-4 and 300-tonne Goliath Crane at Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam.
- The milestone is a significant step in strengthening HSL’s capacity to build larger and more complex ships and advancing India’s indigenous maritime capability.
- Recalling the launch of the first ship built in independent India ‘Jala Usha’ at Visakhapatnam in 1948, RM highlighted India’s longstanding maritime heritage, noting that the country’s relationship with the sea dates to ancient times.
- The upgraded Slipway-4 has been extended and strengthened to enable HSL to build and launch ships of up to 45,000 DWT. The 300-tonne Goliath Crane spanning Slipways 3 and 4 has been designed and manufactured by M/s L&T Geostructure with Konecranes under Make in India.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who has been appointed as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff of India?

- A) Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh
- B) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
- C) Air Marshal Tejinder Singh
- D) Air Marshal Dhiraj Seth

Answer: B) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit

2. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit was commissioned into which stream of the Indian Air Force?

- A) Transport Stream
- B) Helicopter Stream
- C) Fighter Stream
- D) Technical Stream

Answer: C) Fighter Stream

3. Where will the SAR demonstration of SAREX-2026 be conducted?

- A) Mumbai Coast
- B) Kochi Coast
- C) Paradip Coast
- D) Visakhapatnam Coast

Answer: C) Paradip Coast

4. How many international observers from how many countries are participating in SAREX-2026?

- A) 25 observers from 20 countries
- B) 30 observers from 25 countries
- C) 32 observers from 30 countries
- D) 40 observers from 35 countries

Answer: C) 32 observers from 30 countries

5. Which two peaks were successfully ascended during the Joint Indo-Argentine Army Mountaineering Expedition 2026?

- A) Mt Kamet and Mt Kun
- B) Mt Abi Gamin and Mt Kamet

- C) Mt Aconcagua and Mt Kamet
- D) Mt Nanda Devi and Mt Abi Gamin

Answer: B) Mt Abi Gamin and Mt Kamet

6. At what altitude was the maiden live jump of DRDO's Advanced High-Altitude Parachute executed?

- A) 12,000 feet AMSL
- B) 14,000 feet AMSL
- C) 16,000 feet AMSL
- D) 18,000 feet AMSL

Answer: C) 16,000 feet AMSL

7. What maximum altitude did DRDO's High-Altitude Platform (HAPS) attain during its successful flight trial?

- A) 18 km
- B) 20 km
- C) 21 km
- D) 25 km

Answer: C) 21 km

8. What is the value of the Ministry of Defence contract signed with BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited for Fire Control Systems and Launchers?

- A) ₹561.50 crore
- B) ₹661.50 crore
- C) ₹761.50 crore
- D) ₹861.50 crore

Answer: B) ₹661.50 crore

9. What is the minimum indigenous content mandated under the BrahMos procurement contract?

- A) 50%
- B) 60%
- C) 68%
- D) 75%

Answer: C) 68%

10. What is the name of the first indigenous Fleet Support Ship (FSS-1) launched at Hindustan Shipyard Limited?

- A) INS Samarthak
- B) INS Surya

- C) INS Sahyadri
- D) INS Jala Usha

Answer: B) INS Surya

11. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island Is Located At

- A. A&N
- B. Ladakh
- C. J&K
- D. Puducherry

ANSWER: A

12. V. O. Chidambaranar Port Trust Is Located In

- A. T.N
- B. M.H
- C. Goa
- D. A.P

ANSWER: A

13. Full-Form of ATAGS Is

- A. Adventure Towed Artillery Gun System
- B. Advanced To Artillery Gun System
- C. Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System
- D. Advanced Towed Artillery Gum System

ANSWER: C

14. At Which Of The Following Places Is The Heavy Vehicles Factory Located?

- A. Kanpur
- B. Khadki
- C. Avadi
- D. 24 Paraganas

ANSWER: C

15. Sofia Is The Capital Of

- A. Brunei
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Bulgaria

ANSWER: D

16. **“Prashata Ranvirta” Is A Motto Of**

- A. Jammu And Kashmir Rifles
- B. Gorkha Regiment
- C. Punjab Regiment
- D. None

ANSWER: A

17. **Exercises B/w India And Bangladesh Is Called:**

- A. GARUDA SHAKTI
- B. SLINEX
- C. SAMPRITI
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: C

18. **Barrett M95 Is A**

- A. Sniper Rifles
- B. Helicopter
- C. ATAGS
- D. ATGM

ANSWER: A

19. **Astra Is A**

- A. Air-to-air Missile
- B. Air-to-surface Missile
- C. Air-to-sea Missile
- D. None

ANSWER: A

20. **Where Is The Hq Of The Southern Command of The IAF?**

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Pune
- D. Thiruvantpuram

ANSWER: D