

Daily Current Affairs

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Inauguration of Project Seabird Infrastructure

- CDS NS Raja Subramani inaugurated residential accommodation for Senior Sailors and Defence Civilians of Indian Navy along with critical trunk utility and amenity infrastructure as part of Project Seabird Phase IIA at Naval Base, Karwar on 08 Oct 2026.
- The residential accommodation at East of Manzil Creek and Amadalli inaugurated on 08 Oct 2026 consists of one tower of Senior Sailors married accommodation comprising 60 Dwelling Units one tower of 60 DUs for Naval Defence Civilians, inliving accommodation for 156 DSC personnel, and a KG School.
- These infrastructure developments are part of ongoing Phase IIA of Project Seabird to support basing of ships and submarines at Karwar. The scope includes construction of a dual-use Naval Air Station, a full-fledged Naval Dockyard, and logistics facilities for ships and aircraft.
- The Naval base housing approx. 10,000 uniformed and civilian personnel with families, will significantly boost the local economy, industry and tourism and create numerous direct and indirect job opportunities for the Uttara Kannada region.



Indian Navy Set To Commission 'Mangrol'

- Mangrol, the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, is set to be commissioned into the Indian Navy on 12 Oct 2026 at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.
- Named after Mangrol, a coastal town and prominent fishing harbour in Gujarat's Junagadh district, the ship carries forward the legacy of the erstwhile INS Mangrol (M85), a minesweeper that served the Indian Navy until 07 Apr 2004.
- Built with over **80% indigenous content**, Mangrol reflects India's growing capabilities in warship design, construction and integration of advanced weapons and sensors.
- Constructed by CSL under the Government of India's **Make in India** and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives**, the ship marks another important step towards self-reliance in defence shipbuilding.
- Designed to detect and counter underwater threats in coastal and shallow waters, Mangrol is equipped with modern weapons and sensors, including the **Abhay Hull-Mounted Sonar, lightweight torpedoes, an indigenous anti-submarine rocket launcher and the Maareech Advanced Torpedo Decoy System.**
- Powered by three diesel engines with waterjet propulsion, the ship offers high manoeuvrability for operations in shallow waters. It is also capable of undertaking underwater surveillance, Low-Intensity Maritime Operations and mine warfare-related tasks.



Honeywell To Double HTT-40 Engine Deliveries

- Honeywell is set to deliver four additional TPE331-12B turboprop engines to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) by the end of the year, increasing the total number of engines supplied under the contract to eight.
- The latest deliveries form part of a contract valued at more than ₹840 crore, under which Honeywell is supplying engines for the HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft, an indigenously developed platform designed for pilot training within the Indian Air Force.
- The TPE331-12B engine powers the HTT-40, a key element of India's effort to strengthen domestic aerospace manufacturing and reduce reliance on imported trainer aircraft.
- The agreement signed in 2022 covers the supply and manufacture of 88 TPE331-12B engines and associated kits, together with maintenance and support services. Under the arrangement, Honeywell is responsible for directly supplying the first 16 engines before transferring manufacturing know-how to HAL.
- The planned technology transfer is expected to enable HAL to assemble engines domestically while expanding its maintenance, repair and overhaul capabilities in India.

- Honeywell has indicated that deliveries are progressing ahead of the original schedule, with all 16 directly supplied engines expected to be delivered before the previously projected 2029 timeline.



Deeply Offensive: India Shreds JD Vance's 'Indentured Servants' Remark

- India's MEA has sharply criticised US Vice President JD Vance for describing H-1B visa holders as "indentured servants", calling the remark deeply offensive and insensitive to the historical and colonial associations of the term.
- In a strongly worded statement, the MEA said such language disregards the reality that Indian professionals in the United States are highly skilled, well-educated contributors to the country's economy, technology sector and innovation ecosystem.
- The ministry noted that the United States itself has been built and strengthened over generations by immigrants whose work, entrepreneurship and innovation have helped drive growth and prosperity. It said references carrying painful colonial-era connotations were inappropriate and unacceptable.
- The response followed remarks made by Vance during a press conference focused on visa fraud. He argued that some companies use foreign workers to reduce labour costs, claiming H-1B employees are paid less than American workers performing similar roles.
- Vance stated that H-1B visa holders earn around \$20,000 less than US citizens in equivalent positions and alleged that workers employed through foreign

outsourcing firms earn approximately \$48,000 less than comparable American employees. He accused corporations of replacing domestic workers with foreign labour in order to lower wage costs and increase profits.

- The MEA also addressed the US Department of Labor's recent action concerning the Permanent Labor Certification (PERM) program. It emphasised that PERM is separate from the H-1B visa system and that the suspension of PERM applications for certain companies does not automatically affect existing H-1B visa holders or their dependants.
- The controversy comes after US Labour Secretary Keith Sonderling announced the suspension of several major technology and outsourcing firms from the Permanent Labor Certification program.
- The affected companies include **Cognizant, Infosys, TATA, Wipro, HCL and Capgemini**. US technology companies **Microsoft and Adobe** were also suspended from the program.
- Sonderling said the companies involved had collectively requested nearly three million foreign workers since 2009 and had received more than 2,30,000 H-1B visa approvals as well as over 1,00,000 permanent labour certifications. He argued that these figures reflected jobs that could otherwise have gone to American workers.



IAF Extends Mirage-2000 'Vajra' Service Life To 2038–2039

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has decided to retain its Mirage-2000 'Vajra' fighter fleet in frontline service until 2038-2039, extending the aircraft's planned retirement date by roughly three to four years.

- The move is intended to prevent a capability gap as several next-generation combat aircraft programs continue to face delayed induction timelines.
- The extension reflects growing pressure on the IAF's fighter force structure. The service currently operates approximately 31 fighter squadrons, significantly below its sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons, a shortfall that has become increasingly important amid evolving regional security requirements.
- A major factor behind the decision is the slower-than-expected arrival of replacement platforms. The indigenous Tejas Mk1A, Tejas Mk2 and AMCA programs are expected to play central roles in future force modernisation, but revised schedules have compelled the IAF to continue relying on proven legacy aircraft for a longer period.
- The service-life extension also helps counter the impact of the planned withdrawal of the SEPECAT Jaguar fleet. Around 115-120 Jaguars are expected to leave service between 2028 and 2031 as ageing engines, dwindling spare parts availability and increasing maintenance challenges make long-term operation progressively more difficult.
- By retaining the Mirage-2000, the IAF gains a dependable bridge capability during a critical transition period. The aircraft remains one of the force's most respected multi-role platforms and continues to provide valuable air-defence and precision-strike capabilities.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Project Seabird Phase IIA is associated with which Indian Navy facility?

- A. Naval Base, Kochi
- B. Naval Base, Karwar
- C. Naval Base, Mumbai
- D. Naval Base, Visakhapatnam

Answer: B. Naval Base, Karwar

2. Who inaugurated the new infrastructure under Project Seabird at Karwar on 8 October 2026?

- A. Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi
- B. General Upendra Dwivedi
- C. CDS General NS Raja Subramani
- D. Air Chief Marshal AP Singh

Answer: C. CDS General NS Raja Subramani

3. Which ship is scheduled to be commissioned into the Indian Navy on 12 October 2026?

- A. INS Kulish
- B. INS Mangrol
- C. INS Kavaratti
- D. INS Sahyadri

Answer: B. INS Mangrol

4. INS Mangrol belongs to which category of naval vessels?

- A. Destroyer
- B. Aircraft carrier
- C. Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft
- D. Fleet Support Ship

Answer: C. Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft

5. Which company constructed Mangrol?

- A. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- B. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- C. Goa Shipyard Limited
- D. Cochin Shipyard Limited

Answer: D. Cochin Shipyard Limited

6. Which sonar system is fitted on Mangrol, according to the supplied material?

- A. HUMSA-NG
- B. Abhay Hull-Mounted Sonar
- C. Thales CAPTAS
- D. BEL Panchendriya

Answer: B. Abhay Hull-Mounted Sonar

7. Which engine powers India's HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft?

- A. GE F404
- B. Honeywell TPE331-12B
- C. GE F414
- D. Rolls-Royce Adour

Answer: B. Honeywell TPE331-12B

8. What is the planned total number of TPE331-12B engines covered under the Honeywell-HAL contract?

- A. 16
- B. 40
- C. 64
- D. 88

Answer: D. 88

9. Until which period has the Indian Air Force decided to extend the service life of its Mirage-2000 “Vajra” fighter fleet?

- A. 2030–2031
- B. 2033–2034
- C. 2038–2039
- D. 2040–2041

Answer: C. 2038–2039

10. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Is In

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Gandhi Nagar
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: D

11. Assam Rifles Come Under the Administrative Control Of

- A. MHA
- B. MoD
- C. MEA
- D. All of the above

ANSWER: B

12. Exercise Bold Kurukshetra Conducted B/w India &

- A. Singapore
- B. Nepal
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Bhutan

ANSWER: A

13. GSLV Stands For

- A. Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Velocity
- B. Geosynchronous Satellite Lunch Vehicle
- C. Geosynchronous Solar Launch Vehicle
- D. Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle

ANSWER: D

14. NAVIC Stands For

- A. India Regional Navigation Satellite System
- B. Indian Regional Navigator Satellite System
- C. Indian Regional Navigation Satellite Source
- D. Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System

ANSWER: D

15. The Motto of The Indian National Army (INA) Was

- A. Unity and Discipline
- B. Unity, Faith, Sacrifice
- C. Do or Die
- D. Service before self

ANSWER: B

16. SSB Interview Board Is Not Located At

- A. Bhopal
- B. Prayagraj

C. Kapurthala

D. Mumbai

ANSWER: D

17. DRDL Is A Unit Of

A. ISRO

B. DRDO

C. HAL

D. All of the above

ANSWER: B

18. Vaduz Is the Capital Of

A. Liechtenstein

B. Qatar

C. Lithuania

D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

19. 'Fearless Governance' Book Written By

A. Richa Mishra

B. K Shyam Prasad

C. Dr. Kiran Bedi

D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: C

20. DF-41 ICBM Is A Missile Of

A. India

B. Russia

C. China

D. North Korea

ANSWER: C