

## Current Affairs of the Day

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## Amnesty halts India operations

- Amnesty International India on Tuesday said the government had frozen all its bank accounts, leading to all of its work in the country coming to a halt.

### Value Added Information

#### About Amnesty International India:

- Amnesty International is a London based Non-Governmental Organisation founded in 1961.
- The organization aims to create a world where every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948. It recognized the fundamental human rights universally for the first time.
- It also conducts research, generates action to prevent grave abuses of human rights and demands justice for those whose rights have been violated.
- The organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977 for its “Defence of human dignity against torture” and the United Nations Prize in the field of Human Rights in 1978.

## Hindustan Aeronautics rolls out 300th Dhruv

- The 300th **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-Dhruv)** was rolled out from **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**'s hangar here on Tuesday.
- Speaking on the occasion, HAL CMD, R. Madhavan said the ALH has “evolved into a world class helicopter with its unparalleled performance.

### Value Added Information

#### About Hindustan Aeronautics Limited:

- HAL is a state-owned Indian aerospace and defence firm headquartered is located in Bangalore, India. The Indian Ministry of Defence handles it.
- The government-owned company mainly engages in aerospace activities and is presently involved in the fabrication & production of aircraft, design,



helicopters, jet engines & their replacement parts. It has many facilities scattered throughout India including Bangalore, Kanpur, Nasik, Koraput, Korwa, Lucknow, Kasaragod and Hyderabad.

## History of HAL:

- HAL was founded in Bangalore on 23 December 1940 by Walchand Hirachand as Hindustan Aircraft Limited. The office began in a bungalow on Domlur Road named “Eventide.”
- During the 2nd World War, the Govt in March 1941. India bought a one-third stake in HAL and realized its strategic significance.
- The firm was placed under the administrative control of Min. of Industry and Supply in December 1945.
- It moved under the administrative control of Ministry of Defence in January 1951.
- The HT-2 Trainer aircraft, built by HAL under the direction of Dr V.M. Ghatge, first operated in August 1951.
- Whereas AIL (Aeronautics India Limited) was founded in August 1963, an enterprise owned and run by the Government of India to start production of MiG-21 aircraft in India.
- Hindustan Aircraft Limited was combined with Aeronautics India Limited in October 1964, and therefore HAL came into existence.
- A separate HAL unit for the development of Cheetah & Chetak Helicopters in Bangalore was formed in 1970.
- Avionics Design Bureau was founded at Hyderabad in 1971 to produce and develop UHF, IFF, HF, Radio altimeter & components and so on.
- It started production of ‘Jaguar’ aircraft in 1979, following the licensing deal with British Aerospace.
- It signed an agreement with the USSR in 1982 for swing-wing MiG-27 M production.



- In 1988 a separate HAL department was formed to contribute to the country's space programmes.
- A new ACD (Aircraft Composite Division) was established in March 2007 to produce composite material for its with in-house applications, such as LCA, ALH, and so on.
- A separate LCA (Light Combat Aircraft) Tejas Unit for manufacturing Light Combat Aircraft was founded at Bangalore in March 2014.

## Malabar exercise: meeting to discuss Australia's entry

- India will discuss its decision on whether to allow Australia into the **Malabar trilateral exercise** at the next week's Quad Foreign Ministers meeting in Tokyo.
- This year's edition of the exercise consisting of **India, Japan and the U.S.** is scheduled to take place in mid-November. India and the U.S. are also scheduled to hold the next round of 2+2 ministerial dialogue.
- External Affairs Minister Jaishankar will visit Japan from October 6-7 for the second India-Australia-Japan-U.S. ministerial meeting, the External Affairs Ministry said on Tuesday.

### No final decision:

- The Defence Ministry on Friday discussed the issue of inviting Australia for the Malabar exercise and an understanding has been reached but no final decision was taken. As reported by The Hindu on June 3, after years of reluctance due to Beijing's sensitivities India said it was open to Australia's inclusion in the Malabar.

## Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict

- Recently, territorial dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region has re-erupted with heavy clashes.
- Armenia and Azerbaijan are part of Transcaucasia or South Caucasia. It is a geographical region in the vicinity of the southern Caucasus Mountains on the



border of Eastern Europe and Western Asia consisting of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

- The Caucasus are a strategically important mountainous region in south-east Europe. For centuries, different powers in the region – both Christian and Muslim – have vied for control there.

### Nagorno-Karabakh region:

- Nagorno-Karabakh region has 95% of the population as ethnically Armenian and is controlled by them but it is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan.

