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# Defence Current Affairs

## 29 October 2022

### Bharat Electronics Signs Pact with Meslova

- Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics (BEL) has signed an agreement with Meslova Systems, for cooperation in the areas of artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI&ML) for air defence (AD) systems/platforms for the Armed Forces.
- Hyderabad-headquartered Meslova designs, develops and delivers domain-specific products and applications using artificial intelligence to some of the largest governments and enterprises.
- This MoU aims at leveraging the complementary strengths and capabilities of BEL and Meslova, a statement said. It will enable the two companies to develop and deploy various products and services for AD systems/platforms of the Armed Forces, wherein AI&ML is embedded and integrated as part of the products.
- The defence firm's profit before tax (PBT) during the first half of the financial year 2022-23 (FY2022-23) stood at Rs 1,402.96 crore, with a 66.44 per cent growth over the PBT of Rs 842.91 crore in the year-ago period.
- Profit After Tax (PAT) during the first half of FY2022-23 stood at Rs 1,042.54 crore, with a 67.14 per cent growth PAT of Rs 623.75 crore recorded in the corresponding period of the previous year. The company said its order book position at September-end stood at Rs 52,975 crore, more than four times its annualised sales revenues.
- During the quarter, BEL issued bonus shares in the ratio of 2:1 i.e. 2 shares for every 1 share of BEL held cum bonus.
- Last week, the defence firm signed an agreement with Triton Electric Vehicle (TEV), for the manufacture of hydrogen fuel cells by BEL with technology transfer from TEV, to meet the requirements of the Indian market and mutually-agreed export markets, a company statement said.

- The company said the agreement aims at tapping the demand for clean energy solutions for various applications including for e-mobility, by leveraging the government's thrust for adopting clean energy fuels for applications in transport, energy storage and so on.
- The shares of Bharat Electronics were trading at Rs 104.65 a piece on Friday noon on BSE.



भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स  
BHARAT ELECTRONICS

## Exercise 'SIMBEX' – 2022

- The Indian Navy is hosting the 29th edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) from 26 to 30 October 2022 at Visakhapatnam.
- SIMBEX-2022 is being conducted in two phases – Harbour Phase at Visakhapatnam from 26 to 27 October 2022 followed by the Sea Phase in the Bay of Bengal from 28 to 30 October 2022. Two ships from the Republic of Singapore Navy, RSS Stalwart (a Formidable Class Frigate) and RSS Vigilance (a Victory Class Corvette) arrived in Visakhapatnam on 25 October 2022 for participation in the exercise.
- Rear Admiral Sean Wat Jianwen, Fleet Commander, of the Republic of Singapore Navy called on Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command and Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet on 25 October 2022. During the meetings, issues of common concern were discussed.
- The Harbour Phase witnessed extensive professional and sporting interactions between the two navies including cross-deck visits, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE) and planning meetings.

- SIMBEX series of exercises began in 1994 and were initially known as Exercise Lion King. The scope and complexity of the exercise have risen substantially over the past two decades to include advanced naval drills covering a wide spectrum of maritime operations. The exercise exemplifies the high level of cooperation between India and Singapore in the maritime domain. It also highlights the commitment and contribution of the two nations towards enhancing maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.



## **Raksha Mantri Dedicates To The Nation 75 BRO Infrastructure Projects**

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh dedicated to the nation 75 infrastructure projects built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at a function organised at D-S-DBO road in Ladakh on October 28, 2022. These 75 projects - 45 bridges, 27 roads, two Helipads & one Carbon Neutral Habitat - are spread across six states & two Union Territories (UTs). Twenty (20) of these projects are in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K); 18 each in Ladakh & Arunachal Pradesh; five in Uttarakhand and 14 in other border states of Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab & Rajasthan.
- These strategically important projects have been constructed at a total cost of Rs 2,180 crore by the BRO in record time, many of which have been completed in a single working season using state-of-the-art technology. Appreciating the grit and determination of BRO for achieving the feat despite challenging weather conditions, the Raksha Mantri pointed out that the projects will bolster the country's defence preparedness & ensure economic development of border areas.

- The highlight of the event was the onsite inauguration of 120-metre long Class 70 Shyok Setu on D-S-DBO Road at an altitude 14,000 feet. The bridge will be of strategic importance as it will facilitate logistics movement of the Armed Forces. Other projects inaugurated virtually by the Raksha Mantri include two helipads, one each in Hanle and Thakung, in Eastern Ladakh. These helipads will enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Air Force in the region.
- The BRO's first Carbon Neutral Habitat at a height of 19,000 feet for its personnel was also inaugurated at Hanle. It is BRO's effort towards contributing to Ladakh's resolve of becoming the country's first Carbon Neutral Union Territory. The key features of this complex include accommodation of 57 personnel and thermal comfort during extreme weather. It will enable BRO to operate efficiently during large part of winters.
- Speaking on the occasion, Shri Rajnath Singh reaffirmed the Government's commitment to ensure the progress of far-flung areas to fulfil the security needs of the country, stressing that infrastructure development, along with the valour of the Armed Forces, was the main reason that helped India to effectively deal with the recent situation in the northern sector. He termed the new 75 projects as a testament to that resolve and said that these bridges, roads & helipads will facilitate military and civil transport in far-flung areas of the western, northern and north-eastern parts of the country, forming a part of development chain. He described connectivity with border areas as one of the focus areas of the Government for the holistic development of the nation.
- "Lack of infrastructure development in J&K for decades post-independence was one of the reasons behind the rise of terrorism in the UT. These internal disturbances resulted in significant decline in tourist footfall that impacted Ladakh also, as well as the entire nation. Now, due to the Government's efforts, the region is witnessing a new dawn of peace & progress. Our aim is to continue with the development of all states/UTs of the country. Soon, all the remote areas will be connected with the rest of the country and together we will take the nation to newer heights of progress. BRO has a crucial role in achieving this objective," Shri Rajnath Singh said.
- On the occasion, Shri Rajnath Singh also laid the foundation stones of Himank Air Despatch Complex being constructed in Chandigarh & a BRO Museum at Leh. With the onset of winter, once the passes close due to heavy snowfall, BRO extensively utilises air effort for movement of men, machinery and material to far-flung areas.



- The existing Air Despatch subunit located at Chandigarh is being upgraded for providing comfort to transiting troops and to ensure efficient and uninterrupted delivery of essential stores and equipment for execution of works on ground. The BRO will be undertaking the construction of the new Complex at Chandigarh by incorporating the latest 3D printing technology and once completed, the building will boast of being the world's largest 3D Printed Complex.



## US Plans To Fortify Defense Ties With India To Deter China: Pentagon

- The Biden administration plans to advance its defence ties with India to enhance its ability to deter Chinese aggression and address gray zone coercion in areas such as disputed land borders, as per the US National Defense Strategy 2022 released on Thursday.
- Regarding the Indo-Pacific Region, it says "The Department will also support Ally and partner efforts, in accordance with US policy and international law, to address acute forms of gray zone coercion from the PRC's campaigns to establish control over the East China Sea, Taiwan Strait, South China Sea, and disputed land borders such as with India."
- The National Defence Strategy includes the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) and the Missile Defence Review (MDR). The Nuclear Posture Review, which has outlined the course of action for the Pentagon, is a legislatively-mandated review that describes US nuclear strategy, policy, posture, and forces.
- The Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) reaffirms that the key role of US nukes is to deter nuclear attacks on the country and its partners. The Missile Defence

Review is a review conducted pursuant to the President and the Secretary of Defence guidance, while also addressing the legislative requirement to assess US missile defence policy and strategy.



## India, US To Hold Wargames Near China Border From November 15 In Uttarakhand's Auli

- India and the US will hold their regular Yudhabhyas series of wargames in the Auli area in Uttarakhand along the China border from November 15. The exercise, which was planned many months in advance, was earlier planned to be held in October but would now be held next month, Army officials said.
- The war games would see the two armies practice counter-terrorist operations along with many drills during the exercise. The exercise would be held from Nov 15 to December 2 in the mountainous terrain in the area which has seen the additional deployment of assets and troops in the last two years.
- This would be the 18th of the **Yudh abhyas** wargames between India and the US to help enhance interoperability between the two sides.



## EXERCISE GARUDA – VII

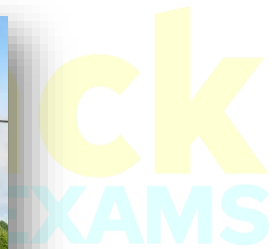
- IAF and French Air and Space Force are participating in a bilateral exercise, named 'Garuda VII', from 26 October to 12 November 2022 at Air Force Station Jodhpur. In this exercise, FASF will participate with four Rafale fighter aircraft, one A-330 Multi Role Tanker Transport aircraft and a contingent of 220 personnel.
- The IAF is participating with Su-30 MKI, Rafale, LCA Tejas and Jaguar fighter aircraft, as well as the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) and Mi-17 helicopters. The IAF contingent will also include Combat Enabling Assets like Flight Refuelling Aircraft, AWACS and AEW&C. This joint exercise will provide a platform for both countries to enhance operational capability and interoperability, while also sharing best practices.
- This is the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the bilateral exercise. The first, third and fifth editions were conducted in India in 2003, 2006 and 2014 at Air Force Stations Gwalior, Kalaikunda and Jodhpur, respectively. The second, fourth and sixth editions were conducted in France in 2005, 2010 and 2019.
- Participation of the IAF and FASF in this exercise will promote professional interaction, exchange of experiences and enhancement of operational knowledge, besides strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.





## Tatas, Lockheed Martin In Talks To Make Sikorsky S-76 Helicopters In India

- The Tatas are in talks with Lockheed Martin for manufacturing Sikorsky S-76 helicopter in India, according to reports. The S-76 is a medium-sized helicopter widely put to both civilian and military use in many countries. The armed forces of Britain, Japan, Spain, Saudi Arabia and Argentina use (or used earlier) it.
- Lockheed Martin, one of the world's biggest defence manufacturers, owns Sikorsky. The Tatas have a contract to make 40 C-295 transport aircraft for the IAF. The Indian government is aware of the discussions between the two, according to sources cited in the media.
- If the deal goes through, it will be one of the biggest milestones for Indian aviation manufacturing. As per various reports, there are plans to sell Sikorsky helicopters not just in India but all over the world.



### REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Manufacturing Facility For Production Of Airbus C295 Aircraft To Come Up In\_\_\_.  
A. New Delhi  
B. Chennai  
C. Vadodara  
D. Noida

**ANSWER: C**

**2. On 1 Apr 1954, the President's Colours Were Presented To The IAF By Which President Of India?**

- A. Rajendra Prasad
- B. V.V. Giri
- C. Radhakrishnan
- D. Pratibha Singh Patil

**ANSWER: A**

**3. Ex GARUDA SHAKTI, IND-INDO CORPAT, IND-INDO BILAT Conducted b/w India &**

- A. Qatar
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Indonesia
- D. Maldives

**ANSWER: C**

**4. EXERCISE GARUDA – VII Is Conducted b/w**

- A. India & USA
- B. India & UK
- C. India & France
- D. India & Israel

**ANSWER: C**

**5. EXERCISE GARUDA – VII Is Conducted In**

- A. Paris
- B. Jaipur
- C. Jodhpur
- D. Chennai

**ANSWER: C**

**6. The Indian Navy Is Hosting The \_\_\_ Edition of The SIMBEX 2022.**

- A. 29<sup>th</sup>
- B. 30<sup>th</sup>
- C. 31<sup>st</sup>
- D. 32<sup>nd</sup>

**ANSWER: A**

**7. SIMBEX Series Of Exercises Began In 1994 And Were Initially Known As**

- A. Exercise Lion King
- B. Exercise Asia King
- C. Exercise Jungle King
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**8. Which Indian Navy Ship Participated In SIMBEX 2022?**

- A.** INS Sahyadri
- B. INS Delhi
- C. INS Garuda
- D. INS Rajali

**ANSWER: A**

**9. The Harbour Phase & Sea Phase Of SIMBEX 2022 Is Conducted In**

- A. Visakhapatnam & Bay of Bengal
- B. Kochi & Bay of Bengal
- C. Visakhapatnam & Chennai
- D. Goa & Bay of Bengal

**ANSWER: A**

**10. Rajnath Singh Dedicated To The Nation 75 Infrastructure Projects Built By The BRO In\_\_.**

- A. Leh
- B. Ladakh
- C. Kashmir
- D. Sikkim

**ANSWER: B**

**11. WNC Is In**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Kochi
- C. Chennai
- D. Panaji

**ANSWER: A**

**12. Northrop Grumman Is The Defence Manufacturing Company Of Which Nation?**

- A. USA
- B. UK
- C. Israel
- D. Russia

**ANSWER: A**

**13. Exercise PASCHIM LEHAR (XPL-2022) Conducted At**

- A. Bay of Bengal
- B. West Coast, India
- C. Moscow, Russia
- D. IOR

**ANSWER: B**

**14. The Unending Game Book Is Written By**

- A. Vikram Sood
- B. Shivshankar Menon
- C. Ravi Shastri
- D. Salman Rushdie

**ANSWER: A**

**15. What Is The Capital Of Andorra?**

- A. Maseru
- B. Andorra la Vella
- C. Yamoussoukro
- D. Addis Ababa

**ANSWER: B**

**16. "The School for Good Mothers " Book Is Written By**

- A. Jessamine Chan
- B. Beatrice Hitchman
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Nikki May

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration Is In**

- A. H.P
- B. U.P

- C. U.K
- D. M.H

**ANSWER: C**

**18. "Discipline and united action are the real sources of strength for the nation."  
Said By**

- A. Gandhi Ji
- B. Lal Bahadur Shastri
- C. Pt. Nehru
- D. Gopal Krishna Gokhale

**ANSWER: B**

**19. PVSM Stands For**

- A. Param Vishisht Seva Medal
- B. Param Vishisht Sainik Medal
- C. Param Vishishthtm Seva Medal
- D. None

**ANSWER: A**

**20. Commodore Rank Of Indian Navy Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of IAF?**

- A. Air Commodore
- B. Air Marshal
- C. Wing Commander
- D. Major

**ANSWER: A**



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