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Defence Current Affairs

26 November 2022

INDIAN NAVY - ROYAL ENFIELD MOTORCYCLING EXPEDITION

- The Indian Navy Motor Bike team, 'The Sea Riders, in partnership with Royal Enfield, the world's oldest motorcycle brand and in production since 1901, embarked on an epic motorcycle expedition, as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations', commemorating the 75th year of independence, across the seven states of North East India from 25 Nov - 14 Dec 22.
- The expedition was flagged off by Adm R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff over Video Conference from South Point School at Guwahati. Fifteen Sea Riders rode out on Royal Enfield Meteor 350 cc bikes on their journey to cover a total distance of 3500 kms over a period of 24 days across the seven states of NE India.
- The expedition is being conducted over two phases across seven states with each phase covering some of the toughest and most breath-taking terrains in North East India. The riders will traverse along the Indo-Bangladesh border, visiting historical Unakoti sculptures, Keibul Lamjao National Park, the only floating national park in the world and witnessing the famous Hornbill festival. The expedition will be passing through the capital cities of Guwahati, Shillong, Aizawl, Imphal, Kohima riding through high Altitude Sela & BumLa Passes.
- During the expedition, the sea riders, led by Capt Sumeet Puri, will interact with students at various schools and introduce the spirit of adventure whilst making them aware about the Indian Navy. This unique partnership aims at motivating youth to join the Armed Forces and will conclude in Guwahati on 15 Dec 22.
- Over the years, Royal Enfield has played a significant role in the journey of the Indian Armed Forces and this expedition would be another step towards further strengthening the association.

- Y 12705 (Mormugao), the second ship of Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyers being built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), was delivered to the Indian Navy on 24 Nov 22. The contract for four ships of Project 15B was signed on 28 January 2011.
- This Project is a follow-on of the Kolkata class (Project 15A) destroyers commissioned in the last decade and the lead ship of the Project - INS Visakhapatnam has already been commissioned into the Indian Navy on 21 Nov 21.
- The ship is 163 metres long and 17 metres wide, displaces 7400 tonnes when fully loaded and has a maximum speed of 30 knots. Apart from myriad indigenous equipment in the 'Float' and 'Move' categories, the destroyer is also installed with under-mentioned major indigenous weapons. The overall indigenous content of the project is approx. 75%.
 - (a) Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (BEL, Bangalore)
 - (b) BrahMos Surface-to-Surface Missiles (BrahMos Aerospace, New Delhi)
 - (c) Indigenous Torpedo Tube Launchers (Larsen & Toubro, Mumbai)
 - (d) Anti-Submarine Indigenous Rocket Launchers (Larsen & Toubro, Mumbai)
 - (e) 76mm Super Rapid Gun Mount (BHEL, Haridwar)
- The ship had sailed out for her maiden sea sortie on 19 Dec 21 to coincide with the Goa Liberation Day and the ship has now been delivered. The delivery of Mormugao is an affirmation of the impetus being given by the Government of India and the Indian Navy towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' as part of celebration of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The early induction of the destroyer, almost 03 months prior to the contractual date, despite the COVID challenges, is a tribute to the collaborative efforts of large number of stake holders and would enhance the maritime prowess of the country in the Indian Ocean Region.



IIT Jodhpur Developing AI-powered Robotics For Desert Warfare For Indian Army

- A team led by Prof. C Venkatesan of the department of mechanical engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jodhpur is working on artificial intelligence (AI)-powered all-terrain vehicle, designed especially for deserts like that in western Rajasthan.
- Venkatesan said that the researchers hope to program the vehicle so that it can make intelligent decisions based on the situation. The concept is to develop a vehicle capable of moving effortlessly on the sand, capable of transforming its shape in such a way that it can cross any dunes or rocky surfaces as a man would.
- Venkatesan confirmed a detailed presentation was made to DRDO and they are on board the project and have asked to submit a detailed proposal. “The vehicle will be compact. It could resemble a car, a dog, a human, or something else – that will be decided later. “This concept will be realized using sensors, AI, robotics, and other related technologies,” he said.



Unmanned Ground Vehicles To Be Demonstrated In Indian Army's "Dakshin Shakti" Military Exercise

- Gridbots Technologies Pvt. Ltd will be demonstrating its ZEUS, All Terrain – Track Based Robot, and TITAN, multi-utility combat vehicle in Exercise Dakshin Shakti which will be conducted by the Southern Command of the Indian Army to ensure integrated application of forces in Multi-Domain Operations and upholding the Nation's military aims over the entire spectrum of conflict.
- ZEUS is a high-payload autonomous robot that can transport payloads on cross-country terrains. ZEUS can move in swarms – automatic person/leader following and auto-target lock feature to save time and resources for troops on the battlefield.
- Titan is a high-capacity multi-utility combat vehicle that can autonomously perform multiple types of operations on the battlefield without any human assistance or intervention thereby minimizing the risk for the infantry and enhancing their capabilities on ground operations.
- Recently at DefExpo 2022, Titan was showcased with Amogha-III, a 3rd generation fire and forget IIR seeker-based ATGM that can be used to hunt for Main Battle Tanks.



4th India-France Annual Defence Dialogue

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will co-chair 4th India-France Annual Defence Dialogue with the Minister of Armed Forces of the French Republic Mr. Sebastien Lecornu on his visit to India from 26-28 November 2022.
- The visiting French Minister shall also meet External Affairs Minister and the National Security Advisor. This is the first visit of Mr Sebastien Lecornu as French Minister of Armed Forces to India. He is also scheduled to visit Headquarters Southern Naval Command at Kochi and see India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.
- India and France have close and friendly relations. In 1998, the two countries entered into Strategic Partnership, marking convergence of their views on a range of international issues apart from a close and growing bilateral relationship. India and France are partners in defence and armaments, contributing to India's policy of strategic autonomy in the defence sector through numerous industrial cooperation.



INS Shivalik and Kamorta Complete Visit to South Korea

- Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kamorta, during their stay at Busan from 21 to 23 Nov 22, participated in multiple activities with the RoK Navy that included official and social interactions, cross-deck visits and sports fixtures. The Commanding Officers of both IN ships also called on Vice Admiral Kang Dong Hun, Commander Republic of Korea Fleet, who welcomed the IN ships and discussed avenues to further strengthen maritime cooperation between Indian Navy and the RoK Navy. Vice Admiral Kang visited INS Shivalik and interacted with the Ambassador of India to RoK Shri Amit Kumar.
- On departure from Busan, Shivalik and Kamorta undertook a Maritime Partnership Exercise with RoK Navy Ship No Jeok Bong. The exercise signified the close bonds of friendship and further enhanced interoperability between both navies.



IAF Chief Backs Foreign Collaboration On AMCA Program

- IAF Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari in an interview with “BW Business World” has called for foreign collaboration for the development of niche technologies for the Indigenous 5th Generation AMCA fighter program to avoid delays and slippage in the delivery schedule of the program.
- Chaudhari said that delay in a few of the indigenous components could trigger a bigger delay in the program so it’s prudent to have a backup development in place to ensure that the program sticks to its timelines.
- Chaudhari indirectly might have flagged IAF’s deep concern over the ability of the nodal design agency ADA and HAL. Boeing and Safran both have offered to collaborate in the past on the AMCA program if India selects their fighter jets under its tender for 114 jets in the MRFA competition.
- The Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft is an Indian programme to develop a fifth-generation stealth, multirole, air superiority fighter for the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy which will also include sixth-generation technologies.
- AMCA will be a single-seat, twin-engine aircraft. The AMCA Mark 1 will come equipped with 5.5 generation technologies and Mark 2 will have the incremental 6th generation technology upgrades. The AMCA which is intended to perform a multitude of missions including Air supremacy, Ground-Strike, Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD) and Electronic Warfare (EW) missions would be a potent replacement for the Sukhoi Su-30MKI air superiority fighter, which forms the backbone of the IAF fighter fleet.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Motto Of Pioneer Corps Is**

- A. Shram Sarva Vijayee
- B. Service Before Self
- C. Always Brave
- D. Exchange of Tactics Everywhere

ANSWER: A

2. **ZEUS Is A**

- A. Missile
- B. All Terrain – Track-Based Robot
- C. Tank
- D. UAV

ANSWER: B

3. **Ex 'SHAKTI' Conducted b/w India &**

- A. Qatar
- B. France
- C. UAE
- D. Israel

ANSWER: B

4. 4th India-France Annual Defence Dialogue Will be Held In

- A. Paris
- B. London
- C. New Delhi
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: C

5. Maritime Partnership Exercise B/w India & South Korea Held At

- A. Nava Sheva Port
- B. Busan Port
- C. Chennai Port
- D. Kandla Port

ANSWER: B

6. AMCA Stands For

- A. Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft
- B. Advanced Medium Cooperation Aircraft
- C. Advanced Media Combat Aircraft
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

7. Operation Safed Sagar Was Launched In

- A. 1997
- B. 1998
- C. 1999
- D. 2000

ANSWER: C

8. SCALP Missile Is Developed By

- A. UK**
- B. France
- C. Israel
- D. USA

ANSWER: B

9. Range of Sagarika Missile Is

- A. 500 km
- B. 600 km
- C. 700 km
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

10. India Purchased Jaguar Fighter Aircraft from

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

11. At Which Of The Following Places Is The Headquarters Of A Naval Command NOT Located?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Goa
- C. Kochi
- D. Visakhapatnam

ANSWER: B

12. M61 Vulcan Is A

- A. Six- barrelled Gatling gun
- B. Heavy machine gun
- C. Pistol
- D. Rocket

ANSWER: A

13. Hq Of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Is At

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. Austria

ANSWER: D

14. Lusaka Is The Capital Of

- A. Zambia
- B. Venezuela
- C. United Kingdom

D. Uganda

ANSWER: A

15. "My Life, My Mission" Book Is Written By

A. Baba Ramdev

B. Venkaiah Naidu

C. Meenakshi Lekhi

D. Dr. Bibek Debroy

ANSWER: A

16. Rashtriya Raksha University Is In

A. Gandhinagar

B. Mumbai

C. New Delhi

D. Chennai

ANSWER: A

17. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Is A Project Of

A. Brazil

B. Russia

C. China

D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

18. Which Is Not A Member Of SAARC?

A. Afghanistan

B. Bangladesh

C. Bhutan

D. Madagascar

ANSWER: D

19. THAAD System Designed and Manufactured By

A. Lockheed Martin

B. Almaz – Antey

C. Raytheon

D. MBDA/ Eurosam

ANSWER: A

20. Joint Exercises B/w The India And Japan Is Called:

- A. Shinyuu Maitri
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: A



Courses

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