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Defence Current Affairs

01 December 2022

24th National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan and Preparedness Meeting

- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted the 24th National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP) and Preparedness Meeting in Chennai, Tamil Nadu on November 30, 2022. Director General, ICG Shri VS Pathania, who is the Chairman of NOS-DCP, chaired the meeting. About 100 delegates, including representatives of various Ministries, Central and State Government departments and agencies, State Pollution Control Board, Ports and Oil Handling Companies participated. National capabilities with the common aim to ensure collective preparedness to respond to any oil and chemical spill contingency in Indian waters were reviewed.
- In his address, Shri VS Pathania stated that ICG is prepared to deal with threats to the region and its resources, including marine oil and chemical spill at sea. He stressed that as new vulnerabilities continue to emerge, the stakeholders must recognise the opportunity to enhance cooperation through stronger partnerships, effective coordination and imbibing best practices of the developing technology.
- Presently, as the third largest importer of crude, India receives a large volume of oil through ships. Similarly, it stands sixth in the world as major chemical importer country. Both oil and chemicals if spilled pose inherent risks to the maritime zones of India and the connected coastlines housing large coastal population, marine ecosystem, industries and various installations along with supporting tourism industry. Therefore, preventive measures by the Central Coordinating Agency, Ports, Ship Owners, Oil Handling Facilities, Coastal States and other concerned stakeholders are required to be taken to prepare for any likely marine spill.



China To Increase Nuclear Warheads To 1,500, Pentagon Warns

- China is expanding its nuclear force and is on pace to nearly quadruple the number of warheads it has by 2035, rapidly closing its gap with the United States, the Pentagon said in a report released on Tuesday. The report builds on the military's warning last year that China is expanding its nuclear force much faster than US officials had predicted, highlighting a broad and accelerating buildup of military muscle designed to enable Beijing to match or surpass US global power by mid-century.
- Last year, the Pentagon said the number of Chinese nuclear warheads could increase to 700 within six years and may top 1,000 by 2030. The new report says China currently has about 400 nuclear warheads, and that number could grow to 1,500 by 2035.
- The United States, by comparison, has 3,750 active nuclear warheads.
- Beijing's growing arsenal is creating uncertainty for the US as it navigates how to deter two nuclear powers, Russia and China, simultaneously, the Pentagon said in its recent nuclear posture review.
- And China's buildup also creates uncertainty about its intentions, said Bonny Lin, director of the China power project at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

- "Will the actual increase in capability start impacting how Chinese experts think about the use of nuclear weapons?," such as whether it would change Beijing's no "first use" policy, Lin asked.
- "That's the uncertainty. We can't assume that if they have more capabilities, their policy is going to remain the same."
- The report looks at China's activities in 2021 and therefore does not assess what impact Russia's invasion of Ukraine may have had on China's militarisation priorities or strategy, or to what extent the invasion has weakened or strengthened China's relationship with Russia, said a senior defense official who briefed reporters in advance of the report's release on the condition they not be named.
- While China has not provided Russia with weapons in the current conflict, its amplification of Russian disinformation and its continued support for joint military exercises with Russia is something the US is monitoring closely, the official said.
- China is also closely watching how the international community reacts to Russia's threat to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine, said John Erath, senior policy director for the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation.
- "If Russia is able to gain its objectives by means of nuclear threats, China will derive lessons from that and could be potentially making these kinds of threats against Taiwan or other neighbouring countries in connection with China's territorial ambitions," Erath said.
- The report was released as China is seeing its most widespread protests in decades, with demonstrators denouncing the country's "zero-COVID" policy, but the timing is unrelated. Congress requires the Pentagon to prepare the report annually.
- Its release also comes just two weeks after President Joe Biden met with China's President Xi Jinping on the sidelines the Group of 20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia, their first in-person meeting since Biden became president in January 2021.



Joint HADR Exercise 'Samanvay 2022' Culminates At Air Force Station Agra

- The Annual Joint HADR Exercise 'Samanvay 2022' was conducted by the IAF at Air Force Station, Agra from 28 November 2022 to 30 November 2022. Various stakeholders from the country and representatives from ASEAN member countries participated in the exercise.
- Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh was the chief guest on the second day of the Multi Agency Exercise dedicated to Capability Demonstration. In his address, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri emphasized the need for collaborative HADR management at national and regional levels to improve interoperability and provide faster response to crisis situations. He advocated the necessity of speed, scale and solidarity in the disaster response mechanism to save valuable lives and property. While thanking the participants of ASEAN countries, he brought out that the focus of India has now shifted from a 'relief-centric' to a 'multi-pronged' approach to crises encompassing prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, relief and rehabilitation. He commended the role played by all stakeholders in the domain of HADR and underlined the effectiveness of the Armed Forces as 'First Responders' in crisis situations.
- Samanvay 2022 tested the efficacy of all available HADR resources. It emerged as a significant step towards achieving synergy between various stakeholders

and facilitated exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices with the participants including those representing the ASEAN member countries.



Defence Ministry extends Pension Payment For 3 Months For Pensioners

- The Ministry of Defence has approved the extension of pension payment for three months for banks' pensioners, who migrated to SPARSH (System for Pension Administration (Raksha) and whose identification was due in November.
- Defence Ministry has reiterated that the process of Annual Identification and Life Certification is a statutory requirement for continued and timely credit of monthly pension. All defence pensioners who are yet to complete their annual identification have been requested to complete their annual identification or life certification by February next year to ensure smooth processing and credit of their pension entitlement.
- "It is reiterated that the process of annual identification/life certification is a statutory requirement for continued and timely credit of monthly pension. Thus, all defence pensioners who are yet to complete their annual identification are requested to complete their annual identification/life certification by February 2023 positively to ensure smooth processing and credit of their pension entitlement," it added.



ENC Conducts Full Dress Rehearsal With Air Show For Navy Day

- Eastern Naval Command will be observing Navy day on December 4 in Visakhapatnam. The supreme commander of the Armed forces and President Droupadi Murmu is likely to attend the program.
- Navy Day is observed every year to commemorate India's victory in the India-Pakistan war in 1971. It is observed on December 4 every year, to commemorate the daring attack on Karachi harbour, which was launched by the Indian Navy's missile boats in the 1971 war.
- INS Tarangini, INS Jalashwa, the biggest amphibious transport dock and Fifteen warships including submarines and aircraft participated near Rama Krishna Beach sea shore in Visakhapatnam.
- The iconic fighter aircraft MIG-29K, which comprises part of the air assets onboard the INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant aircraft carriers, are also scheduled to be part of the air show on December 4. The P-8I Poseidon also made a low flypast, captivating the audience with its mammoth size.
- The naval personnel also rehearsed a search and rescue operation at sea with a UH 3H off the coast.
- The silhouetted image of the warships, decorated with electric lights and shooting off flares, simulating a war-like scenario, made for a striking sight in the backdrop of the evening sky.



Indian Military Academy Passing Out Parade IMA POP To Be Held On 10 Dec 2022

- IMA passing out parade will take place on December 10. In this, Gentleman Cadets from both India and other countries will become officers and form an essential element of the armed forces of their respective nations. The passing out parade rehearsals have started.
- The IMA was founded on October 1, 1932, claims Lt. Col. Himani Pant, the organization's public relations officer. The Academy's training capacity has grown from 40 to 1650 Gentleman Cadets over the past 90 years. 64,145 Gentlemen Cadets have graduated from the Academy so far.
- 2813 international cadets from 34 friendly nations are also a part of it. Guests from India and beyond, top army officers, and cadets' family members will all take part in the passing out procession on December 10.
- Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat congratulated his team on the successful trial, stating that this interceptor will provide great operational flexibility to the users and having capability to engage many different types of targets.
- The academy, spread over 1,400 acres (5.7 km²), houses the Chetwode Hall, Khetarpal Auditorium, Somnath Stadium, Salaria Aquatic Centre, Hoshiar Singh Gymnasium and other facilities that facilitate the training of cadets. Cadets in

IMA are organized into a regiment with four battalions of four companies each. The academy's mission, to train future military leaders of the Indian Army, goes hand in hand with the character building enshrined in the IMA honour code, warrior code and motto. Cadets take part in a variety of sports, adventure activities, physical training, drills, weapons training and leadership development activities.

- The academy's alumni include six recipients of India's highest military decoration, the Param Vir Chakra. Other achievements by alumni include 73 Military Crosses, 17 Ashoka Chakras, 84 Maha Vir Chakras and 41 Kirti Chakras.



Integration Of Aircraft With INS Vikrant Likely By May-June Next Year: Navy Chief

- Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar on Wednesday said the integration of aircraft with the newly commissioned aircraft carrier INS Vikrant is likely to be accomplished by May or June next year.
- The sea-going trials are already over after which the carrier was commissioned. Now, the aircraft integration trials have been started, he told reporters after reviewing the Passing Out Parade of the 143rd course of the NDA at Khadakwasla in Maharashtra's Pune district.

- Speaking about first batch of women cadets being inducted recently in the NDA, the Admiral said, “Our forces are gender neutral. Women are already doing combat services. There are women officers in the forces, including Navy.”
- The Navy has started inducting women sailors as well which is a landmark achievement, he said.
- “This year, we had 3,000 vacancies for sailors for which we received 10 lakh applications, including 82,000 from women,” the Navy chief said.
- Asked about the Navy’s modernisation plan, Admiral Kumar said, “The Indian Navy is on a modernisation programme. Our first small ship was commissioned indigenously in 1960. Since then, we are building ships bigger and bigger. After this, we started building destroyers, culminators and aircraft carriers. Incidentally, the (latest) aircraft carrier is 76 per cent indigenou, so it’s a great achievement for the nation.”
- In the last seven years, 29 ships and submarines built in India have been commissioned, he said.
- “We have 45 ships under construction of which 43 are built in India. We are processing the acceptance of necessity for another 49 ships. Thus, there’s much focus on modernisation plan and the government is supporting us. The work is in progress as expected,” he said.





REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Indian Navy Day Observed On

- A. 01 Dec
- B. 02 Dec
- C. 03 Dec
- D. 04 Dec

ANSWER: D

2. SPARSH Stands For

- A. System for Pension Administration (Raksha)
- B. System for Pay Administration (Raksha)
- C. Sonar for Pension Administration (Raksha)
- D. Solar for Pension Administration (Raksha)

ANSWER: A

3. Joint HADR Exercise 'Samanvay 2022' Culminates At

- A. Air Force Station Jodhpur
- B. Air Force Station Jaipur
- C. Air Force Station Agra
- D. Air Force Station Delhi

ANSWER: C

4. The IMA Was Founded On

- A. October 1, 1930
- B. October 1, 1931
- C. October 1, 1932
- D. October 1, 1933

ANSWER: C

5. 15th President of India Is/Was _____

- A. Droupadi Murmu
- B. Pranab Mukherjee
- C. Pratibha Singh Patil
- D. Rajendra Prasad

ANSWER: A

6. Current DGMO Of Indian Army Is

- A. Lt Gen BS Raju
- B. Lt Gen Manjinder Singh
- C. Lt Gen Mukesh Kapoor
- D. Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Katiyar

ANSWER: D

7. IPCC Stands For

- A. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Challenge
- B. Intergovernmental Panel on Cloud Change
- C. Intergovernmental Pan on Climate Change
- D. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

ANSWER: D

8. Joint Exercises B/w India And Vietnam Is Called:

- A.** Yama
- B.** VINBAX
- C.** Indra
- D.** Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: B

9. Which Is Not A Tactical Ballistic Missiles?

- A. Prithvi
- B. Prahar
- C. Pralay

D. Agni

ANSWER: D

10. INS Gomati Is A

A. Frigate

B. Submarine

C. Naval Helicopter

D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

11. IBSAMAR Is A Type Of

A. Army Ex

B. Air Force Ex

C. Naval Ex

D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

12. FGM-148 Javelin Is Made By

A. Boeing

B. Lockheed Martin

C. Raytheon

D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

13. India Shares Its Land Boundaries With Which Countries In The East?

A. China, Nepal and Bhutan

B. Bhutan and Afghanistan

C. Myanmar and Bangladesh

D. Pakistan and Afghanistan

ANSWER: C

14. "The Unending Game: Insights into Espionage" Book Is Written By

A. Shashi Tharoor

B. Vikram Sood

C. Abhishek Manu Singhvi

D. Ahmed Saadawi

ANSWER: B

15. Ex PRABAL DOSTYK Conducted B/W India And

- A. France
- B. China
- C. Kazakhstan
- D. Kyrgyzstan

ANSWER: C

16. Group Captain Rank Of IAF Is Equivalent to Which Rank of Indian Navy?

- A. Colonel
- B. Captain
- C. Commander
- D. Major

ANSWER: B

17. Army Education Corps (AEC) Is At

- A. Imphal
- B. Pachmarhi
- C. Patiala
- D. Vairengte

ANSWER: B

18. India Purchased Kamov Ka-27 From

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

ANSWER: C

19. Where Is The Hq Of The Southern Command of The Indian Navy?

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

ANSWER: A

20. SLINEX Ex Conducts B/W

- A. India & Indonesia
- B. India & Bangladesh
- C. India & Sri Lanka

D. India & Russia
ANSWER: C

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