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Defence Current Affairs

21 December 2022

Indian Forces Acquiring 'Pralay' Ballistic Missile For Striking Targets At 150-500 Km

- Amid the ongoing conflict with China, the Indian armed forces are now going to acquire the '**Pralay**' **ballistic missile** which can hit targets from 150 to 500 Kms.
- The proposal moved by the Indian defence forces is at an advanced stage and is scheduled to be taken up for clearance during a high-level meeting this week.
- With a range of 150 to 500 km, 'Pralay' is powered with solid propellant rocket motor and other new technologies. The missile guidance system includes state-of-the-art navigation and integrated avionics.
- **Accuracy:** <10 metres (33 ft) CEP
- **Engine:** Two stage rocket motor with third stage MaRV
- **Guidance system:** Inertial navigation system
- **Launch platform:** 8 x 8 BEML-Tatra transporter erector launcher
- **Mass:** 5 tonnes (4.9 long tons; 5.5 short tons)
- **Operational range:** 150–500 km (93–311 mi)
- **Place of origin:** India



Fifth Scorpene Submarine 'Vagir' Delivered To Indian Navy

- The fifth submarine of the Project – 75, Kalvari Class submarines, Yard 11879 was delivered to the Indian Navy today, 20 Dec 22. Project – 75 includes indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene design. These submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France. Launched on 12 Nov 20, Vagir commenced the sea trials from 01 Feb 22 and it is a matter of great pride that she has completed all major trials including the weapon and sensor trials in the shortest time in comparison to the earlier submarines.
- Submarine construction is an intricate activity as the difficulty is compounded when all equipment are required to be miniaturised and are subject to stringent quality requirements. Construction of these submarines in an Indian yard is another step towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and enhances self-confidence in this field, a notable achievement is that this is the third submarine delivered to the Indian Navy in a span of 24 months.
- The submarine would shortly be commissioned into the Indian Navy and enhance the Indian Navy's capability.
- The Project 75 (India)-class submarines, or P-75I, for short, are a planned class of diesel-electric submarines, which are to be built for the Indian Navy. The P-75I class is a follow-on of the P-75 class submarines of the Indian Navy.
- **Builders:** L&T Shipbuilding; Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- **Cost:** ₹43,000 crore (US\$5.4 billion)

- **Propulsion:** Diesel-electric propulsion; Air-independent propulsion (AIP)



Inter Services Affiliation Of The Mahar Regiment

- The affiliation of the Mahar Regiment of the Indian Army and 8 Squadron of the Indian Air Force was formally signed at a solemn ceremony at Air Force Station Bareilly on 19 December 2022. The Ceremony involved a Joint Army - Air Force Guard of Honour and signing of “Charter of Affiliation” by Lieutenant General C Bansi Ponnappa, Adjutant General & Colonel of the Mahar Regiment and Air Vice Marshal MS Deswal, Commodore Commandant, 8 Squadron of the Air Force.
- Affiliation of Mahar Regiment and the No 8 Squadron will enable each other to develop a mutual understanding of joint ethos, capabilities and core competencies through common appreciation of military tactical doctrines and concepts in the contemporary military environment.
- The Mahar Regiment of Indian Army, since it’s raising on 01 October 1941 has fought with unique distinction and honour, emerging victorious on several battlefields and has been awarded nine Battle Honours and 12 Theatre Honours post-Independence. The Regiment has earned numerous gallantry awards including the Param Vir Chakra (PVC) and Ashok Chakra (AC). No 8 Squadron Air Force is one of the senior most squadrons of the Indian Air Force and was raised on 01 December 1942. The Unit has the distinction of being the first Air Force Squadron to fight in the Burma Campaign during World War II. The Squadron is presently equipped with the formidable Sukhoi-30 MKI.
- This affiliation ceremony will further promote jointness and is a symbol of inter-services camaraderie that will go a long way in synergised execution of integrated operations in modern warfare.



LAUNCH OF 'ARNALA', FIRST SHIP OF ASW SWC

- 'Arnala', the first of 08 x ASW SWC Project, being built by GRSE for Indian Navy was launched on 20 Dec 22 at M/s L&T, Kattupalli, Chennai. She made her first contact with water of Bay of Bengal at 1040 hrs at the Launch Ceremony graced by Smt Rasika Chaube, Financial Adviser (Defence Services), MOD.
- The ship has been named Arnala to signify the strategic maritime importance accorded to the island of Arnala (located about 13 Km north of Vasai, Maharashtra) by the great Maratha warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- The 77.6m ASW SWC ships have a displacement of 900 tons with a maximum speed of 25 knots and endurance of 1800 NM.
- Despite challenges due to COVID-19 pandemic, GRSE has made substantial progress on the ships of this project. Launch of this ship reinforces our resolve towards completely indigenous shipbuilding as part of Prime Minister's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. The ASW SWC ships will have over 80% indigenous content, ensuring that large scale defence production is executed by Indian manufacturing units thereby generating employment and capability build up within the country.



6th India-Maldives Joint Staff Talks Held In New Delhi

- 6th Joint Staff Talks (JST) between India and the Maldives were held in New Delhi on December 20, 2022. The meeting was conducted in a friendly, warm and extremely cordial atmosphere. Discussions focused on the ongoing and new initiatives under the ambit of existing bilateral defence cooperation mechanism of all the three services and further strengthening the engagements.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Assistant Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) Air Vice Marshal Ashish Vohra and Commandant, Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) Service Corps Brigadier General Hamidh Shafeeg. The JST is a forum established to boost defence cooperation between India and the Maldives through annual talks at the strategic and operational levels between HQ IDS & MNDF.
- India and the Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links steeped in antiquity and enjoy close, cordial and multi-dimensional relations. India was among the first to recognise the Maldives after its independence in 1965 and to establish diplomatic relations with the country. India established its mission at the level of CDA in 1972 and resident High Commissioner in 1980. The Maldives opened a full-fledged High Commission in New Delhi in November 2004, at that time one of its only four diplomatic missions worldwide.
- India is Maldives 2nd largest trading partner – rising up from its 4th position in 2018.

- In 2021, bilateral trade registered a growth of 31% over the previous year – overcoming the pandemic-related challenges.



Sashastra Seema Bal Commemorating '59th Raising Day'

- Sashastra Seema Bal is commemorating its '59th Raising Day' with the commitment to a safe, secure, and prosperous India.
- Sashastra Seema Bal, SSB is a border guarding force of India, which guards the nation's border with Nepal and Bhutan.
- It is one of the five Central Armed Police Forces and it works under the administration of the Ministry of Home Affairs. In the aftermath of the 1962 India-China war.
- **Founded:** 1963
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Motto:** Service, Security and Brotherhood
- **Employees:** 94,261 active personnel
- **Annual budget:** ₹7,653.73 crore
- **General nature:** Federal law enforcement



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. ARNALA Is Manufactured By

- A. MDL
- B. GRSE
- C. CSL
- D. HSL

ANSWER: B

2. 6th India-Maldives Joint Staff Talks Held In

- A. Noida
- B. New Delhi
- C. Gurugram
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: B

3. Sashastra Seema Bal Is Commemorating Its '___ Raising Day'.

- A. 55th
- B. 56th
- C. 57th
- D. 59th

ANSWER: D

4. G20 Presidency Of India, Ministry Of ____ Is Organizing Urban 20 Event.

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. Ministry of Rural Affairs
- D. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

ANSWER: D

5. International Human Solidarity Day Is Observed On

- A. 18 Dec
- B. 19 Dec
- C. 20 Dec
- D. 21 Dec

ANSWER: C

6. Which of the following countries constitute I2U2?

1. Iran, 2. India, 3. Israel, 4. United Kingdom, 5. USA, 6. UAE, 7. Iraq

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3, 5 and 6 only
- D. 2, 4, 5, and 7 only

ANSWER: C

7. Southwestern Air Command of IAF Is In

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

ANSWER: C

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

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

ANSWER: C

9. Dhanush, A Missile Inducted Into The Indian Navy

- A. cannot carry nuclear warheads

- B. is a customized and naval variant of Prithvi missile
- C. has a range of 700 km
- D. can be launched from an aircraft

ANSWER: B

10. At Which Of The Following Places Is The Indian National Defence University Being Set Up?

- A. Gurgaon, Haryana
- B. Amethi, Uttar Pradesh
- C. Kasargod, Kerala
- D. Medak, Andhra Pradesh

ANSWER: A

11. Which Of The Following Indian State Does Not Share Border With Nepal?

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. West Bengal
- D. Jharkhand

ANSWER: D

12. Ex 'Surya Kiran' Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. Nepal
- D. Bhutan

ANSWER: C

13. Joint Exercises B/w India And Oman Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. AL NAGAH

ANSWER: D

14. Madumalai Tiger Reserve, Sometimes Seen In News, Is Located In Which Of The Following States?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Odisha

- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Chhattisgarh

ANSWER: A

15. "Warrior Pack" Book Is Written By

- A. Rishi Kumar
- B. M M Naravane
- C. Manoj Pande
- D. Acharya Prashant

ANSWER: A

16. PATRIOT Guidance Missile System Developed By

- A. USA
- B. China
- C. Germany
- D. Russia

ANSWER: A

17. India And Oman Conduct Exercise Of

- A. Al Najah
- B. Eastern Bridge
- C. Naseem Al Bahr
- D. All of the above

ANSWER: D

18. Joint Exercise B/w India And Vietnam Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. VINBAX, IN-VPN BILAT

ANSWER: D

19. Sarvatra Vijay Is The Motto Of

- A. RAJPUT REGIMENT
- B. DOGRA REGIMENT
- C. SIKH REGIMENT
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

20. QRFV Stands For

- A. Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle
- B. Query Reaction Fighting Vehicle
- C. Quick Reaction Fighter Vehicle
- D. Quick Reactive Fighting Vehicle

ANSWER: A



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