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Defence Current Affairs

29 December 2022

New British Indian Army Memorial To Be Built In Scotland

- A new British Indian Army Memorial, commemorating the sacrifice of millions of Indian soldiers who fought alongside the British during the two World Wars, is to be built in the Scottish city of Glasgow after the local council approved the plans.
- “We aim for the memorial to represent the diversity of all the Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Gurkhas and more who fought alongside British troops in World War I and II,” notes Colourful Heritage with reference to the memorial.
- The memorial initiative is being led by the Colourful Heritage multimedia project, which celebrates the history of Scotland’s South Asian community, and is visualised as Scotland’s first permanent memorial wall to recognise the service and sacrifice of over 4 million soldiers of the British Indian Army.
- “We aim for the memorial to represent the diversity of all the Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Gurkhas and more who fought alongside British troops in World War I and II,” notes Colourful Heritage with reference to the memorial.
- Indian Army contributed in large numbers and distinctly to the European, Mediterranean and the Middle East theatres of war in WW I. Their contribution in the victory of Allied powers was vital.
- Indian Army was taken in the WW I by British rule without consulting the Indian leaders. Indians fought in the war hoping that they may be awarded with independence after the war ends.
- Over 1 million Indians served overseas (of whom above 70,000 died and another 67,000 were wounded).
- India also supplied various equipment, materials and animals required during the war.
- The Indian Army served in France, Belgium, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Sinai, Gallipoli, etc.

- The Indian Army fought against the German Empire in German East Africa (a German colony in the African Great Lakes region) and on the Western Front.
- Western Front was opened by Germany by invading Luxembourg and Belgium which bordered France. It became a main theatre of WW I and saw many attacks between 1915 and 1917.
- After the war ended officially (by the signing of TREATY OF VERSAILLES on 28 June 1919), India was denied its promise of self-rule. Instead the British imposed the ROWLATT ACT in 1919 that effectively authorized the government to imprison any suspected person for up to 2 years without a trial.



Amit Shah Chairs High-level Meetings On Leh-Ladakh, Jammu And Kashmir

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting on Leh-Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir over developmental projects and security-related issues.
- The two separate meetings were held in the Ministry of Home Affairs North Block office in the presence of senior officers from the ministry and the two UTs.
- Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Director Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, Director General National

Investigation Agency Dinkar Gupta, and Director General Central Reserve Police Force Sujoy Lal Thakur attended the meeting in Jammu and Kashmir.

- War like stores including seven AK 47 rifles, one M4 carbine, and three pistols were also recovered from the encounter site, the J&K Police said earlier in the day.
- A joint operation by Army, CRPF and J&K Police was launched to eliminate the threat. The intense firing from both sides continued for about an hour when the truck caught fire and fire tenders pressed in to control the douse.
- After clearing the spot, security forces recovered four bodies of the terrorists along with seven AK 47 rifles, three pistols and other incriminated materials.



Army Wives Empower Special Children To Become Productive Citizens

- The Asha schools, run by the Army Wife Welfare Association, have emerged as a 'temple of learning' for specially-abled children, read an official statement, adding that their aim is to empower specially-abled children and make them productive members of society while enabling them to live with dignity.
- According to the official release, the Army Wife Welfare Association and Religare Enterprises Limited signed an MoU to modernise and fully sustain the Asha School, Delhi Cantonment on December 26, 2022.

- The objective is to bring superior facilities and enhance the learning experience of specially-abled children. The MoU further committed to further contribute to a world-class learning experience for the students at the AWWA-run Asha School in the national capital.
- The ultimate goal is to make the students of these schools Atmanirbhar so they lead an independent life, the statement read.
- The development of the school will comprise nine modules after prior approval from Central AWWA. Module 1 will consist of Curriculum development, Module 2 will pertain to Faculty development, Module 3 will be about Infrastructure development, Module 4 for Physical Activity and Sports facilities, Module 5 for Medical Assistance, Module 6 for Transport Facility development, Module 7 for Nutritional Diet, Module 8 for Vocational Skill Development and Module 9 will be for Placement/Internship of the students.



Army Plans To Build Railways To Connect Key Border Areas, In Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, And Sikkim

- Stuck for over a decade, the Indian Army's plans for laying out three strategic railway lines in the Northeast that will help the Indian Army move troops to the region in times of repeated Chinese aggression in the region, Work on initial surveying of location and topographic has begun and work could commence as early as 2024.

- The plan was first mooted by the Army in 2010-11 but was held back to high infrastructure costs in developing a railway network in mountain terrain and also due to low population in these areas that could not have made running trains on these routes affordable.
- In long term is to connect all Northeast sister capitals with railway links so that it can help promote tourism and also make it easy for citizens of these states to travel among these 8 capitals. Project completion and further lines will be added as projects progress but the initial strategic railway line will take over 10 years to be completed due to terrain.
- However, the key lines for which work was sped up are a 200 km broad gauge line between Bhalukpong to Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh), 87 km line between Silapathar (Assam) to Along via Bame (Arunachal Pradesh) and 217 km line between Rupai (Assam) to Pasighat (Arunachal Pradesh) which also has an advanced landing ground of the Indian Air Force.
- All the three proposed railway lines are categorised as “strategic”, which means that the cost will be borne by both the railways and defence ministries.
- Going by statistics, between 2014 and 2022, a total of 893.82 km of track were converted to broad gauge, 386.84 km new lines added, 356.41 km double lines commissioned, and surveys of 1,578 km new lines were completed.
- Fund allocation in the Northeast states was done to the tune of Rs 51,787 cr with average fund allocation per year in the last eight years is 254 per cent more than the yearly average fund allocation in 2009-14, according to NFR data.



India Assumes Wassenaar Arrangement Chairmanship On Jan 1, 2023

- Ahead of India assuming Chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) Plenary starting January 1, 2023, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar is visiting Austria. He will also have a meeting with the Director General of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Mariano Grossi.
- The Wassenaar Arrangement's secretariat is located in its capital Vienna and India will hold the Chairmanship for one year. Dr Jaishankar will be on an official visit from January 1-3, 2023.
- The Wassenaar Arrangement is a voluntary export control regime. The Arrangement, formally established in July 1996, has 42 members who exchange information on transfers of conventional weapons and dual-use goods and technologies.
- It has 42 member states comprising mostly NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and EU states.
- India became a member of the Arrangement in 2017.
- Dual-use refers to the ability of a good or technology to be used for multiple purposes - usually peaceful and military.
- Wassenaar Arrangement's Secretariat is in Vienna, Austria.



South Korea unveils Indo-Pacific Strategy, want to cooperate with India on Defence and joint production

- The Republic of Korea unveiled an Indo-Pacific Strategy on Wednesday and India calls for advancing its special strategic partnership with India, a leading regional partner with shared values.
- RoK has plans to expand its cooperation in the cutting-edge IT and Space sector with India and will plan to expand further cooperation in other areas.
- RoK emerged defence partner of India after it supplied K-9 Vajra to the Indian Army and also won a tender for a self-propelled air defence gun missile system (SPAD-GMS) for its K30 Biho, a short-range anti-aircraft artillery but the contract was not concluded due to rigging allegation in favour of RoK by Russians.
- RoK has offered its KSS-III submarine to India under Project 75 (India) to build six conventional submarines in India. RoK now plans to jointly produce weapons that both countries might want to develop and is seeking cooperation in the common advancement of defence ties between both countries.
- With India it is keen to increase its strategic communication and cooperation through high-level exchanges both in defence and foreign affairs, as well as strengthening its enhanced economic cooperation by upgrading the ROK-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- It also talks about building an open and inclusive architecture in South Asia through different substantive cooperation programmes with sub regional minilateral including the Indian Ocean Region Rim association (IORA). South Korea had joined IORA as dialogue partner in 2018 and the SAARC which it joined as observer in 2006.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Wassenaar Arrangement's Secretariat Is In

- A. Australia
- B. Austria
- C. Angola
- D. USA

ANSWER: B

2. Arrange the following disputed territories between India and Nepal in North to South manner:

- 1. Lipulekh
- 2. Kalapani
- 3. Limpiyadhura

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 3, 1 and 2
- B. 1, 2 and 3
- C. 2, 1 and 3
- D. 3, 2 and 1

ANSWER: A

3. Consider the following countries:

- 1. Sweden
- 2. Netherlands
- 3. Austria
- 4. France

Which of the countries given above shares border with Germany?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

ANSWER: B

4. Ryugu, Recently In The News, Is Related To Which Of The Following

- A. Virus

- B. Ransomware
- C. Asteroid
- D. Missile

ANSWER: C

5. Vizhinjam, Recently Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Of The Following States?

- A. Odisha
- B. Kerala
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Goa

ANSWER: B

6. Army Wife Welfare Association Hq Located In

- A. New Delhi
- B. Jammu
- C. Chennai
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

7. Asian Development Bank Founded On

- A. 19 December 1966
- B. 19 December 1968
- C. 19 December 1970
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

8. PLA Stands For

- A. People's Liberia Army
- B. People's Liberation Army
- C. People's Liberation Armed
- D. Public Liberation Army

ANSWER: B

9. War Cry of NAGA REGIMENT Group Captain Rank Of IAF Is Equivalent to Which Rank of Indian Navy

- A. Bharat Mata ki Jai
- B. Ki ki so so Lhargyalo

- C. Jai Durga Naga
- D. Durga Mata Ki Jai

ANSWER: C

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

- A. Shinyuu Maitri
- B. Veer Guardian
- C. Indra
- D. Both A&B

ANSWER: D

11. "Teevra Chaukas" Is The Motto Of

- A. Corps of Signals
- B. RR
- C. AAD
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

12. How Many PVCs Are Awarded Right Now?

- A. 21
- B. 22
- C. 23
- D. 24

ANSWER: A

13. INS Mumbai Is A

- A. OPV
- B. Submarine
- C. Landing Ship Tank
- D. Guided missile destroyer

ANSWER: D

14. Nirbhay is the Indian long-range __ Missile.

- A. Sub-sonic Cruise
- B. Supersonic Cruise
- C. Hypersonic Cruise
- D. None

ANSWER: A

15. Vientiane Is The Capital Of

- A. Kiribati
- B. Qatar
- C. Kyrgyzstan
- D. Laos

ANSWER: D

16. "The Silent Patient" Book Is Written By

- A. Alex Michaelides
- B. Sitaram Yechuri
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Arundhati Roy

ANSWER: A

17. LEMOA Agreement Is A Military Ties B/W India And

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

ANSWER: A

18. ASBM Stands For

- A. Anti-Ship Ballistic Magnet
- B. Anti-Ship Ballistic Missile
- C. Anti-Ship Ballast Missile
- D. None

ANSWER: B

19. Commander Rank of Indian Navy Is Equivalent To Which Rank of IAF?

- A. Air Marshal
- B. Flight Lt.
- C. Captain
- D. Wing Commander

ANSWER: D

20. Regimental Centre of MADRAS REGIMENT Is In

- A. Wellington, Tamil Nadu
- B. Kamptee, Maharashtra
- C. Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A



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EXAMS

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