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Defence Current Affairs

25 January 2023

EXERCISE TROPEX-23

- The 2023 edition of Indian Navy's major maritime exercise TROPEX, is currently underway in the Indian Ocean Region. This operational level exercise is conducted biennially and witnesses participation not only by all Indian Navy units but also of Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard assets.
- TROPEX 23 is being conducted over a duration of three months from Jan - Mar 23. As part of the exercise, all surface combatants of the Indian Navy including Destroyers, Frigates, Corvettes as well as submarines and aircraft are put through complex maritime operational deployments to validate and refine the Navy's Concept of Operations including operational logistics and interoperability with other Services. The exercise is being conducted in different phases, both in harbour and at sea, encompassing various facets of combat operations, including live weapon firings.
- Having grown in scope and complexity over the years, this exercise provides an opportunity to test the combat readiness of the combined Fleets of the Indian Navy to operate in a multi-threat environment. The maritime exercise also facilitates operational level interaction with the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and the Coast Guard, which will further strengthen interoperability and joint operations in a complex environment.



Rajnath Singh Reviews Aero India 2023 Preparations

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviewed the preparations of the forthcoming Aero India during the apex committee meeting held in New Delhi on January 24, 2023. The Raksha Mantri was given a detailed account of the arrangements of the 14th edition of Asia's largest aero show, which will be held in Bengaluru, Karnataka between February 13-17, 2023. Shri Rajnath Singh exhorted all the stakeholders to ensure fool-proof arrangements for the participants. He said, Aero India 2023 will not just be an event, but a display of the growing prowess of the defence & aerospace sector and the rise of a strong & self-reliant 'New India'.
- The five-day event, on the theme 'The runway to a billion opportunities', will be the largest-ever aero show organised at Air Force Station, Yelahanka in a total area of around 35,000 sqm. As on date, 731 exhibitors have registered for the event. Defence Ministers' Conclave, with the theme 'Shared Prosperity Through Enhanced Engagement in Defence (SPEED)', and a CEOs Roundtable are among the marquee events. The Manthan start-up event and Bandhan ceremony, which witnesses signing of MoUs, will also be part of the event, along with a fabulous air show on all the five days. It will showcase the paradigm shift the Government has brought in the aim of organising such events, that also include DefExpo. The events have been restructured with focus on increasing defence exports and forging partnerships rather than merely import of weapons/equipment
- The Raksha Mantri pointed out that the Indian defence industry is going through a transformational phase and the active participation of the private sector is the

biggest catalyst to that change. “Not just the private sector, but R&D establishments and academia are also working together with the Government. Aero India is a medium to provide a platform to all the stakeholders to jointly strengthen the defence & aerospace sector and contribute to Nation Building,” he added.

- Shri Rajnath Singh emphasised that while Aero India is a business event, it also aims to strengthen India’s relations with other countries. He also underlined the importance of these events for the business ecosystem of the states in which they are organised as well as available opportunities.
- The Raksha Mantri commended Bengaluru for successfully organising several editions of AeroIndia, saying that the event is shaping Karnataka as an epicenter of aviation and aerospace industry. He described Karnataka as one of the leading states which contributes to the economic growth of the country. “The state is known for its skilled manpower and robust defence manufacturing ecosystem. It is a preferred center for manufacturing and R&D activities for domestic & multinational defence and aviation companies,” he said. Shri Rajnath Singh noted the excellent coordination among the officials of MoD and the Karnataka Government to make the event a grand success.
- Karnataka Chief Minister Shri Basavaraj Bommai and state government officials joined the meeting through video conferencing, while Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande, Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane and other senior officials of Ministry of Defence attended the meeting physically.



Finland's Top Diplomat Hints At Joining NATO Without Sweden

- Finland's top diplomat appeared to suggest Tuesday that the country may have to consider joining NATO without Sweden after Turkey's president cast serious doubt on the expansion of the military alliance. "We still have to evaluate the situation if it turns out that Sweden's application is stalling for a long time to come," Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto told Finnish broadcaster YLE.
- His comment came a day after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned Sweden not to expect support for its bid for NATO membership following weekend protests in Stockholm by an anti-Islam activist and pro-Kurdish groups
- Haavisto later backpedalled, telling reporters in Parliament that his comment earlier Tuesday had been "imprecise" and that Finland's ambition to join NATO jointly with Sweden remained unchanged.
- He said he had spoken with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, who had stressed to Haavisto that the military bloc would like to see the two Nordic nations join simultaneously.
- "But of course, there have been raised concerns within NATO on how the (recent) incidents in Sweden will affect the schedule," Haavisto said.
- The bid by Sweden and Finland to join NATO needs the approval of all existing NATO members, including Turkey, which has so far blocked the expansion, saying Sweden in particular needs to crack down on exiled Kurdish militants and their sympathisers.
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- There are currently **30** member states.
- Its original members were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- Joining the original signatories were Greece and Turkey (1952), West Germany (1955, from 1990 as Germany), Spain (1982), the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland (1999), Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and

Slovenia (2004), Albania and Croatia (2009), Montenegro (2017), and North Macedonia (2020).

- France withdrew from the integrated military command of NATO in 1966 but remained a member of the organization, it resumed its position in NATO's military command in 2009.
- Recently, Finland and Sweden have shown interest to join NATO.
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- Headquarters of Allied Command Operations: Mons, Belgium.



SSB Crack
EXAMS

BSF Launches Mobile App To Book Seats For Retreat Ceremony Parade At Attari Border

- Border Security Force launched a mobile application for the convenience of visitors allowing them to book seats for the **Retreat Ceremony Parade** at JCP Attari, Amritsar, Public Relations Officer, BSF said.
- The application was launched by **SL Thaosen**, IPS, DG BSF.
- "The app has all the features of website **attari.bsf.gov.in** and contains basic information like timings of the Retreat ceremony, link for the location of the place and nearby tourist places," the PRO said.
- "The website ensures security at the venue and convenience for the audience, who can book their seats at the stadium/arena. The website is in use and more people are booking and reserving their seats at the venue," the PRO said.
- The BSF was raised in 1965, after the India-Pakistan war.
- It is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces of the Union of India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

- Other Central Armed Police Forces are: Assam Rifles (AR), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), National Security Guards (NSG) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- The 2.65-lakh force is deployed along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders.
- It is deployed on Indo-Pakistan International Border, Indo-Bangladesh International Border, Line of Control (LoC) along with Indian Army and in Anti-Naxal Operations.



Going Hi-tech, Army Issues Tenders For Jet Pack Suits, Robotic Mules For Deployment Along China Border

- In a bid to induct hi-tech equipment in its inventory, the Indian Army has issued tenders to buy 100 robotic mules to carry loads and **48 jet pack suits** which can enable troops to 'fly' at speeds of more than **50 km per hour** and carry out their tasks.
- The acquisitions are planned to be done under the fast track procedures and have been issued under the emergency powers given by the government to the forces for tackling the situation on the China border.
- A Jet pack suit is a turbine-based individual mobility platform, which can lift a man safely from the surface in different terrain.
- Army has specified that the suit must provide controls for the safe ascent, safe descent, take-off and landing and movement in all directions.
- "The tenders for buying 100 robotic mules and 48 jet pack suits have been issued separately. The procurement would be done under emergency provisions

and fast-track procedures. The products have to be built and supplied to the forces under Make in India provisions," Army officials said.



Tri-services Amphibious Exercise, AMPHEX 2023 Concludes

- The biennial Tri-Services Amphibious Exercise, AMPHEX 2023 was conducted at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh from 17 to 22 January 23. AMPHEX is aimed at joint training of elements of all three services in various facets of amphibious operations to enhance interoperability and synergy. AMPHEX 23 is the first time that the exercise was undertaken at Kakinada, and was the largest ever AMPHEX conducted till date. The participating forces undertook complex exercises in all domains of amphibious operations over five days.
- The exercise culminated in a successful Amphibious Assault which was reviewed by Vice Adm Sanjay Vatsayan, AVSM, NM, Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command, in the presence of Force Commanders of the Indian Navy and Indian Army.
- The exercise witnessed the participation of a number of amphibious ships consisting of Large Platform Dock (LPD), Landing Ships and Landing Crafts, Marine Commandos (MARCOS), helicopters and aircraft from the Indian Navy. Indian Army participated in the exercise with over 900 troops which included

Special Forces, Artillery and Armoured vehicles. Jaguar fighters and C 130 aircraft from the IAF also participated in the exercise.

- AMPHEX 2023 successfully demonstrated the amphibious capabilities and validated the excellent coordination that exists between the three Services to undertake the full spectrum of amphibious operations.



Review Questions

1. Which Forces Participated In AMPHEX 2023?

- A. IAF
- B. Indian Navy
- C. Indian Army
- D. All of the above

ANSWER: D

2. Which Edition Of Aero India In 2023 Will Be Held?

- A. 12th
- B. 13th
- C. 14th
- D. 15th

ANSWER: C

3. The 2023 Edition Of Indian Navy's Ex TROPEX, Is Currently Underway In The

- A. Indian Ocean Region
- B. Arabian Sea
- C. Bay of Bengal
- D. None

ANSWER: A

4. India International Science Festival 2022 Event Is Held At

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bhopal
- C. Noida
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: B

5. 13th National Voters' Day Celebrated On

- A. 25 Jan
- B. 26 Jan
- C. 27 Jan
- D. 28 Jan

ANSWER: A

6. First Made In India Passenger Aircraft Is____

- A. Dornier 228
- B. Chetak
- C. Cheetah
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

7. The Cheetah Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: A

8. INS Khanderi Is A

- A.** Destroyer
- B.** OPV
- C.** Submarine

D. Tank

ANSWER: C

9. Joint Exercises B/w India And UAE Are Called:

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Zayed Talwar

ANSWER: D

10. INS Airavat Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Amphibious warfare

ANSWER: D

11. Major Rank of the Indian Army Is Equivalent to Which Rank of IAF?

- A. Flying Officer
- B. Group Captain
- C. Squadron Leader
- D. None

ANSWER: C

12. Hq OF Mazagaon Dockyard Limited Is In

- A. New Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Chennai
- D. Kolkata

ANSWER: B

13. Ex 'Konkan Shakti' Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. UK

ANSWER: D

14. Tarawa Atoll Is The Capital Of

- A. Kosovo
- B. Qatar
- C. Kuwait
- D. Kiribati

ANSWER: D

15. "India's Knowledge Supremacy: The New Dawn" Book Written By

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Sitaram Yechuri
- C. Dharmendra Pradhan
- D. Dr Ashwin Fernandes

ANSWER: D

16. DARPAN Stands For

- A. Defence Accounting Receipts and Payment System
- B. Defence Accounts Receipts and Payment System
- C. Defence Accounts Reserve and Payment System
- D. None

ANSWER: B

17. Operation SANKALP Was Launched By The

- A. IAF
- B. Indian Army
- C. Indian Navy
- D. BSF

ANSWER: C

18. INS Mysore Is A

- A. OPV
- B. Frigate
- C. Destroyer
- D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: C

19. NSG Stands For

- A. Nuclear Suppliers Group
- B. Nucleoid Suppliers Group
- C. Non-Suppliers Group

D. Nuclear Supply Group

ANSWER: A

20. Motto Of CBI Is

A. Victory Everywhere

B. Always Alert

C. Industry, Impartiality, Integrity

D. None

ANSWER: C



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