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Defence Current Affairs

03 February 2023

Philippines Expands US Access To Military Bases

- The United States and the Philippines announced a deal Thursday to give US troops access to another four bases in the Southeast Asian nation, as the longtime allies seek to counter China's military rise.
- The agreement to expand cooperation in "strategic areas of the country" was made during a visit by US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.
- It comes as the countries seek to repair ties that were fractured in recent years - **previous Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte favoured** China over his country's former colonial master, but the new administration of **Ferdinand Marcos Jr** has been keen to reverse that.
- Given its proximity to Taiwan and its surrounding waters, the Philippines' cooperation would be key in the event of a conflict with China, which a four-star US Air Force general has warned could happen as early as 2025.



US, India Expand Defence Cooperation Under iCET

- US and India expanded their defence cooperation under the inaugural US-India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET).
- United States Principal Deputy Secretary Vedant Patel addressing a briefing on Wednesday (local time) said, "We also expanded our defence cooperation with joint development and production, and this will focus on projects related to jet engines, munition-related technologies, and other systems".
- The iCET was announced in May 2022 to elevate and expand the strategic technology partnership and defence industrial cooperation between the governments, businesses, and academic institutions of the two countries.
- iCET aims to position the two countries as trusted technology partners by building technology value chains and supporting the co-development and co-production of items. It also aims to address regulatory restrictions, export controls and mobility barriers through a standing mechanism.
- The US side has assured support to ease export barriers to India in a few critical areas, including through efforts towards legislative changes. At the launch, emphasis was placed on strengthening linkages between the startup ecosystems and building innovation bridges in key sectors between the two countries, through expos, hackathons and pitching sessions, as per the press release.



Major General H Dharmarajan Takes Over As New GOC of Bengal Sub Area

- Major General H Dharmarajan, a recipient of Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Sena Medal Bar, Vishisht Seva Medal, on Wednesday took charge as the new General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Bengal Sub Area.
- The General is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khandakwasla, IMA Dehradun and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. The General has attended Higher Command Course at Washington DC and National Defence College (NDC) in New Delhi.
- He was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers (Madras Engineer Group) in December 1986.
- During thirty-six years of his illustrious career, the General Officer has held several appointments at various levels at Brigade, Division, Corps, Command and the Army Headquarters.
- The General commanded an Infantry Division on the Line of Control and headed the Rashtriya Indian Military College during his career.



IAF Handed Over The Ceremonial Cane Of 'Lead Provost Service' To ADGPI

- The IAF handed over the Ceremonial Cane of 'Lead Provost Service' for the year 2023-24 to ADGPI.
- In the year gone by, the IAF had provided ceremonial cover during events of national importance like Independence Day, Republic Day, Vijay Diwas & visits of foreign heads.
- Provosts (usually pronounced "provo" in this context[1]) are military police (MP) whose duties are policing solely within the armed forces of a country, as opposed to gendarmerie duties in the civilian population. However, many countries use their gendarmerie for provost duties.



143 Indian Troops Died On Duty In Africa Under Peacekeeping Missions: Government

- As many as 143 Indian troops died on duty in Africa under UN peacekeeping missions since the United Nation's inception, the government said on Thursday. A total of 143 Indian UN peacekeeping troops died on duty in Africa under peacekeeping missions since the UN's inception, the government said.
- In a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said the total number of women troops who have died during UN's peacekeeping missions across the world is 35.
- To a separate question, Muraleedharan said India continues to assist Sri Lanka in its economic development as also support it in overcoming its economic challenges, under India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy.
- In January 2022, India extended a USD 400 million currency swap to Sri Lanka under the SAARC Framework and deferred successive Asian Clearing Union (A.C.U.) settlements of around USD 2 billion, he said.
- A Line of Credit of USD 500 million was extended to Sri Lanka for importing fuel from India, he said.
- "In addition, India has extended a credit facility of USD 1 billion for the procurement of food, medicines and other essential items from India. Humanitarian assistance was also provided to Sri Lanka by gifting essential medicines worth about INR 6 crores, 15,000 litres of kerosene oil and US \$ 55 million LoC for procurement of Urea fertilizer," Muraleedharan said.
- The Tamil Nadu government has contributed rice, milk powder and medicines worth US\$ 16 million, as part of the larger Indian assistance effort, he added.



Review Questions

1. iCET Stands For

- A. Initiative on Critics and Emerging Technology
- B. Initiative on Critical and Emerging Trauma
- C. Initiative on Critical and Emerged Technology
- D. None

ANSWER: C

2. __ Takes Over As New GOC of Bengal Sub Area.

- A. Major General Sandeep Singh
- B. Major General H Dharmarajan
- C. Lt. General H Dharmarajan
- D. Major General Anil Jacob

ANSWER: B

3. Which Southeast Asian Nation Expands Approval To US Troops To Use Their 4 Military Bases?

- A. Thailand
- B. Myanmar
- C. Philippines
- D. Laos

ANSWER: C

4. IAF Handed Over The Ceremonial Cane Of 'Lead Provost Service' To__.

- A. Indian Navy
- B. ADGPI
- C. BSF
- D. NSG

ANSWER: B

5. Current President Of The UNGA Is

- A. Csaba Kőrösi
- B. António Guterres
- C. Joe Biden
- D. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

ANSWER: A

6. India Isn't A Member Of Which Of The Following Groups?

- A. Nuclear Suppliers Group
- B. Australia Group
- C. Missile Technology Control Regime
- D. Wassenaar Arrangement

ANSWER: A

7. Duncan Passage separates:-

- A. Rutland Island and Little Andaman
- B. Andaman and Nicobar
- C. North and South Andaman
- D. South Andaman and little Andaman

ANSWER: A

8. Which Is Not The Commissioned Ranks In The Army Service?

- A.** Brigadier
- B.** Colonel
- C.** General
- D.** Commander

ANSWER: D

9. Blaser R93 Tactical Is Rifle Of

- A. Oman
- B. Qatar
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Germany

ANSWER: D

10. R&AW Stands For

- A. Research and Analytical Wing
- B. Raw and Analysis Wing
- C. Research and Analysis Wing
- D. Research and Analysis Wet

ANSWER: C

11. IRST Stands For

- A. Infra-Red Search and Terrorist System
- B. Infra-Red Search and Tokyo System

- C. Infra-Red Search and Track System
- D. None

ANSWER: C

12. Where Is The Hq Of The Maintenance Command of The IAF?

- A. Nagpur
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Shillong
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

13. 'Cheetah' and 'Chetak' are the names of :

- A. Fighter aircrafts
- B. Helicopters
- C. Armoured vehicles
- D. Infantry regiments

ANSWER: B

14. What Is Highest Commissioned Rank Awarded In The Navy?

- A. Commodore
- B. Captain
- C. Wing Commander
- D. Admiral

ANSWER: D

15. 'Bishkek' Is The Capital Of

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

ANSWER: C

16. "1232 km: The Long Journey Home" Book Written By

- A. Anshuman Vajpayee
- B. Sonu Mehta
- C. Ram Babu
- D. Vinod Kapri

ANSWER: D

17. Exercises B/w India And Nepal Lanka Is Called:

- A. Vayu
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Surya Kiran

ANSWER: D

18. AEW&CS Stands For

- A. Airborne Early Warning and Center System
- B. Airborne East Warning and Control System
- C. Airborne Early Warning and Control System
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

19. 'CORPS' In Indian Army Headed By__

- A. General Officer Commanding (GOC)
- B. General Officer Commanding-in-chief (GOC-in-C)
- C. Major General
- D. Brigadier

ANSWER: A

20. India Purchased Dragunov SVD from













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

ANSWER: D



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