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Defence Current Affairs

05-06 February 2023

US Downs Chinese Surveillance Balloon

- The US military has downed the suspected Chinese spy balloon over the Atlantic Ocean and launched a mission to recover all the equipment from its debris, drawing a strong reaction from China which on Sunday warned of repercussions over America's use of force against its civilian unmanned airship.
- Fighter aircraft from Langley Air Force Base in Virginia inspired a single missile into the balloon, causing it to crash into the ocean within the US territorial airspace, said the official, adding that as of now there are no indications that any people including US military personnel, civilian aircraft or maritime vessels were harmed in any way.
- Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said that at the direction of President Biden, fighter aircraft assigned to US Northern Command successfully brought down the high-altitude surveillance balloon launched by and belonging to the People's Republic of China (PRC) over the water off the coast of South Carolina in US airspace.
- "The balloon, which was being used by the PRC in an attempt to surveil strategic sites in the continental United States, was brought down above US territorial waters," Austin said.



Narendra Modi To Dedicate To The Nation HAL's Helicopter Factory

- In yet another step towards 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation a Helicopter Factory of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Tumakuru, Karnataka on February 06, 2023. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and senior officials of Ministry of Defence will be present on the occasion.
- The Greenfield Helicopter Factory, spread across 615 acres of land, is planned with a vision to become a one-stop solution for all helicopter requirements of the country. It is India's largest helicopter manufacturing facility and will initially produce Light Utility Helicopters (LUHs).
- The LUH is an indigenously designed and developed 3-ton class, single engine multipurpose utility helicopter with unique features of high maneuverability. Initially, this factory will produce around 30 helicopters per year and can be enhanced to 60 and then 90 per year in a phased manner. The first LUH has been flight tested and is ready for unveiling.
- The factory will be augmented to produce other helicopters such as Light Combat Helicopters (LCHs) and Indian Multirole Helicopters (IMRHs). It will also be used for Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul of LCH, LUH, Civil Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and IMRH in the future. Potential exports of civil LUH will also be catered to from this factory.

- The HAL plans to produce more than 1,000 helicopters in the range of 3-15 tonnes, with a total business of over Rs four lakh crores over a period of 20 years. Besides generating direct and indirect employment, the Tumakuru facility will boost the development of surrounding areas through its CSR activities with large-scale community centric programmes on which the company will spend substantial amounts. All this will result in improvement in the people's lives in the region.
- The proximity of the factory, with the existing HAL facilities in Bengaluru, will boost the aerospace manufacturing ecosystem in the region and support skill & infrastructure development such as schools, colleges and residential areas. Medical and health care would also reach the community residing in the various nearby Panchayats.
- With the establishment of facilities like Heli-Runway, Flight Hangar, Final Assembly Hangar, Structure Assembly Hangar, Air Traffic Control and various supporting service facilities, the factory is fully operational. This factory is being equipped with state-of-the-art Industry 4.0 standard tools and techniques for its operations.
- The foundation stone of the facility was laid by the Prime Minister in 2016. This factory will enable India to meet its entire requirement of helicopters without import and giving much needed fillip to the Prime Minister's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in helicopter design, development, and manufacture.



New Agniveers Recruitment Scheme 2023

- The Indian Army has announced major changes in the recruitment process under the Agnipath scheme for candidates wishing to join the force.
- Aspirants will now have to first appear for an online **Common entrance examination (CEE)**, followed by **physical fitness and medical tests**.
- Advertisements announcing the change in the enrollment process were put out by the Army in various newspapers. An official notification in this regard is expected to be issued around **mid-February**.
- Earlier, the recruitment process for Agniveers followed a different order, which began with the candidates undergoing a physical fitness test first followed by their medical tests.
- The qualifying candidates then had to write a **common entrance examination** and they were selected for training based on the **final merit list**.
- The earlier procedure involved huge administrative costs with lakhs of candidates lining up at more than 200 screening centers across the country, said the sources.
- The new process will apply to about **40,000 candidates** who are willing to join the army from the next recruitment cycle of **2023-24**. Sources told PTI that the first online CEE will likely be held in April at around **200 locations** across the country.



Ex-Military Ruler Pervez Musharraf Dies

- Pakistan's former military ruler General (ret'd.) Pervez Musharraf died on Sunday in Dubai after a prolonged illness. The 79-year-old who was the architect of the Kargil War in 1999 was suffering from **amyloidosis**, a rare disease caused by a build-up of an abnormal protein called amyloid in organs and tissues throughout the body, according to his family.
- Musharraf was the main architect of the Kargil War that took place months after then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif signed a historic peace accord with his Indian counterpart Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Lahore.
- After his misadventure in Kargil, Musharraf deposed the then Prime Minister Sharif in a bloodless coup in 1999 and ruled Pakistan from 1999 to 2008 in various positions – first as the chief executive of Pakistan and later as the President.
- Born in a middle-class family of Urdu-speaking Mohajir parents in Delhi in 1943, Musharraf migrated to Pakistan with his family after the Partition in 1947.



SSB



SSB Crack
EXAMS

UK-India National Security Advisers' Meeting

- British PM Rishi Sunak in a “special gesture” briefly joined a meeting here between India’s National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and his UK counterpart Tim Barrow and assured his government’s full support to deepen bilateral strategic partnership in sectors like trade and defence.
- The Indian High Commission said that it is looking forward to the visit of Sir Tim to India soon.
- India and the United Kingdom share a comprehensive strategic partnership.
- The content of NSA bilateral meetings are confidential, but it is thought the pair may have discussed the war in Ukraine and the UK-India FTA, which is about to enter the seventh round of negotiations, boosting security in the Indo-Pacific, Khalistan, terrorism and UK-India extradition matters.



Lockheed Martin, Rafael To Display F-21 Jet, Other Platforms At Aero-India 2023

- US defence major Lockheed Martin will showcase its F-21 fighter jet, S-92 multi-role helicopter, MH-60R Romeo multi-mission chopper and anti-tank weapon Javelin, among others, at the upcoming Aero-India exhibition in Bengaluru.
- Dassault Aviation has decided to bring Rafale M, a carrier-borne version of the Rafale fighter jet at the upcoming Aero India 2023 that is to be held this month at Bengaluru, Yelahanka Air Force Station.
- The 14th edition of Aero-India, known as Asia’s largest aerospace exhibition, will be held at Bengaluru in Karnataka from February 13 to 17.

- Almost all leading aerospace companies around the world are expected to attend the event at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, in a total area of around 35,000 sq metres.



Review Questions

1. 14th Edition of Aero-India Will Be Held In

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

ANSWER: C

2. Ex 'Ajeya Warrior' Conducted b/w India &

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

ANSWER: B

3. __Himalayan Pass Is Situated B/W India And China.

- A. Shenkota
- B. Thalghat
- C. Bhorghat

D. Shipki La

ANSWER: D

4. Wartime Gallantry Award Is/Are

A. Param Vir Chakra

B. Maha Vir Chakra

C. Ashok Chakra

D. Both a & b

ANSWER: D

5. Prithvi Defence Vehicle Mark 2 Is A

A. MRBM

B. IRBM

C. ICBM

D. Anti-satellite Missile Test

ANSWER: D

6. Ex 'JIMEX' Conducted B/w India &

A. Qatar

B. Oman

C. Japan

D. Jamaica

ANSWER: C

7. INS Satpura Is A

A. Destroyer

B. OPV

C. Submarine

D. Frigate

ANSWER: D

8. "Ex SAMPRITI-X" Conducted At

A. Bangladesh

B. Bharat

C. Both A&B

D. None

ANSWER: A

9. Exercises B/w The India And UK Is Called:

- A. Desert Eagle
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Indradhanush

ANSWER: D

10. The Hawker Siddeley HS 748 Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Transport Aircraft

ANSWER: D

11. Army Medical Corps Centre and College Is In

- A. Pune
- B. Lucknow
- C. Mumbai
- D. Noida

ANSWER: B

12. INS Taragiri Is Manufactured By

- A. CSL
- B. MDL
- C. GRSE
- D. None

ANSWER: B

13. INS Taragiri Is Made Under__ Project.

- A. P75 I
- B. P17A
- C. P15B
- D. None

ANSWER: B

14. India Purchased IAI Searcher UAV from

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

D. Israel

ANSWER: D

15. "Operation Khatma" Book Written By

A. Amitava Kumar

B. Usha Uthup

C. Geetanjali Shree's

D. RC Ganjoo and Ashwini Bhatnagar

ANSWER: D

16. Helicopter Factory of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Will Be Established At

A. Balasore

B. Chennai

C. Trombay

D. Tumakuru

ANSWER: D

17. HELINA Missile Has A Maximum Range Of

A. 7 kilometres

B. 8 kilometres

C. 9 kilometres

D. 10 kilometres

ANSWER: A

18. Joint Exercises B/w The India And France Is Called:

A. Yama

B. SLINEX

C. Indra

D. GARUDA

ANSWER: D

19. India Purchased MiG-21

A. USA

B. Sweden

C. France

D. Russia

ANSWER: D

20. CISF Comes Under

- A. MEA
- B. MHA
- C. MoD
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B



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