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Defence Current Affairs

05-06 March 2023

EXERCISE/ CUTLASS EXPRESS 23

- INS Trikand is participating in the International Maritime Exercise/ Cutlass Express 2023 (IMX/CE-23) being held in the Gulf region from 26 Feb to 16 Mar 23. She will exercise with participants from over 50 nations and international maritime agencies with the common aim of enhancing maritime security and keeping sea lanes in the region safe for maritime commerce.
- IMX/CE-23 is one of the largest multinational maritime exercises in the world. While this is Indian Navy's maiden IMX participation, it also marks the second occasion where an Indian Naval ship is participating in an exercise conducted by the CMF. Earlier, in Nov 22, INS Trikand had participated in the CMF led Operation Sea Sword 2.
- Participation in exercises like Sea Sword 2 and IMX/CE-23 enables the Indian Navy in strengthening relationships and enhancing interoperability and collective maritime capability with maritime partners in the IOR. It also enables the Navy contribute constructively to regional stability and security.



China Hikes Defence Budget For 8th Consecutive Year With 7.2%

- China on Sunday hiked its defence budget by 7.2 percent, marginally higher than last year, to 1.55 trillion yuan (about USD 225 billion), marking the eighth consecutive year of increase in its military spending, amidst global unease about the PLA's increasingly aggressive behaviour.
- China pegged its defence budget at 1.45 trillion yuan last year, a 7.1 per cent increase. This year the defence spending is increased to 1.55 trillion yuan.
- China is the second biggest spender on defence next to the US whose defence budget for 2023 totalled USD 816 billion.
- From India's point of view, however, China's defence budget continued to be over three times higher. India's defence budget for 2023-24 amounted to Rs 5.94 lakh crore (about USD 72.6 billion).



ck
XAMS

Indian Navy Successfully Test-fires BrahMos Missile

- The Indian Navy successfully demonstrated the accuracy of an extended-range land attack Brahmos supersonic cruise missile from the stealth destroyer INS Chennai, on 5th March, 2022. The missile hit its intended target with pinpoint accuracy after traversing an extended range trajectory and performing complex manoeuvres.
- Both Brahmos missile and INS Chennai are indigenously built and highlight the cutting-edge of Indian missile and ship-building prowess. They reinforce the

Indian Navy's contribution towards the Atma Nirbhar Bharat and Make in India endeavours.

- This achievement establishes the Indian Navy's ability to strike even deeper and influence land operations further away from sea, when and where required.



6TH JWGACTC Meeting In India

- The 6th meeting of Joint Working Group on Aircraft Carrier Technology Co-operation, constituted under the auspices of the Indo – US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative, was organised in India from 27th February to 3rd March.
- An 11 member US delegation headed by RAdm James Downey, Programme Executive Officer, Carriers visited various defence/ industrial installations in Delhi and Kochi.
- During the meeting, RAdm Downey acknowledged India's status as one of the very few countries capable of constructing Aircraft Carriers and appreciated India's landmark achievement of operating the indigenous aircraft, LCA from the indigenous Carrier in a short span of time post commissioning of the Ship.
- As part of the visit, the US delegation also interacted with the senior leadership at both Delhi and Kochi. The meeting marked yet another significant milestone in the ongoing co-operation between the two countries in the field of Aircraft Carrier technology.



"We Always Look To Cooperate And Work Together In Maritime Domain," Indian Navy Chief

- Highlighting the ever-changing technology in the field of modern warfare, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar underscored the importance of cooperation and working together in the maritime domain.
- Modern warfare has changed from large-scale clashes of armies to suppression of civilian populations via chemical weapons, drones (used extensively in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war), etc.
- "We support 'Make in India'. India is reaching out for partnerships, but it is also making sure that it is resilient to external threats," he said.
- Underlining the importance of small groupings for an agile coalition and partnership, he said, "When we work in smaller groups then it serves the purpose and generates trust in partner countries. India as a country looks at everybody in the region to prosper together."
- Apart from Kumar, the other participants at the panel discussion comprised Bec Shrimpton, Director of the Sydney Dialogue, Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) and former Defence, DFAT, Austrade and senior adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, General Koji Yamazaki, Chief of Staff of Japan Self-Defense Forces, Admiral John C Aquilino, Commander, US Indo-Pacific Command, Admiral Sir Ben Key, First Sea Lord and Chief Of Naval Staff, VADM/VAM Angus Topshee, 38th Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy,



Curtain Raiser - Naval Commanders' Conference 23/1

- The first edition of the Naval Commanders' Conference of 2023 is scheduled to commence on 06 Mar 23. The conference serves as a platform for Naval Commanders to discuss important security issues at the military-strategic level as well as interact with Senior Government functionaries through an institutionalised forum.
- The novelty of this year's conference lies in the fact that the first phase of the Commanders' Conference is being held at sea, and for the first-time, onboard India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant. Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will address the Naval Commanders onboard INS Vikrant on the conference's opening day. The Chief of Defence Staff and the Chiefs of the Indian Army and Indian Air Force would also interact with the Naval Commanders on subsequent days to address the convergence of the three Services vis-à-vis common operational environment, and avenues of augmenting Tri-Service synergy and readiness towards the defence of the nation and India's national interests. An operational demonstration at sea is also planned as part of the activities on Day 1.
- The Chief of the Naval Staff, along with other Naval Commanders will review major Operational, Materiel, Logistics, Human Resource Development, Training and Administrative activities undertaken by the Indian Navy in the last six months and further deliberate upon future plans for important activities and initiatives. During the conference, Naval Commanders would also be provided with an update on 'Agnipath Scheme' executed in the Indian Navy in Nov 22.

Review Questions

1. The 1st Edition Of The Naval Cdrs' Conf, 2023 To Commence On

- A. INS Vikrmaditya
- B. INS Vikrant
- C. INS Virat
- D. None

ANSWER: B

2. Which Of The following INS Participated In The Exercise/ Cutlass Express?

- A. INS Trikut
- B. INS Trikand
- C. INS Vela
- D. INS Vagir

ANSWER: B

3. Maritime Exercise/ Cutlass Express 2023 (IMX/CE-23) Is Being Held In The

- A. Persian Gulf
- B. Bay of Bengal
- C. Pacific Ocean
- D. IOR

ANSWER: A

4. Indian Navy Successfully Test-fires BrahMos missile From

- A. Arabian Sea
- B. Bay of Bengal
- C. Pacific Ocean
- D. IOR

ANSWER: A

5. Which Nation Expand The Highest Amount In Defence?

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

ANSWER: B

6. National Youth Parliament Festival Conducted At

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

ANSWER: B

7. Army Institute of Cardiothoracic Sciences Is In

- A. Chennai
- B. New Delhi
- C. Jaipur
- D. Pune

ANSWER: D

8. With reference to the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to build and expand understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation through consensus-based, evolutionary, and non-intrusive means.
2. As of 2023, it has 23 member states.
3. Its secretariat is based in Mauritius.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWER: D

9. Women, Business And The Law 2023 Report Is Released By Which Of The Following?

- A. World Bank
- B. UNDP
- C. BRICS
- D. WEF

ANSWER: A

10. Recently, India Has Collaborated With Asia Energy Transition Initiative. Which Of The Following Country Has Taken This Initiative?

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

ANSWER: D

11. Operation Meghdoot Was Conducted In

- A. 13 April 1984
- B. 14 April 1984
- C. 15 April 1984
- D. 16 April 1984

ANSWER: A

12. Ex 'CYCLONE' Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. France
- D. Egypt

ANSWER: D

13. Rajputana Rifles Hq Is In

- A. Mumbai
- B. Kochi
- C. Chennai
- D. Delhi

ANSWER: D

14. The Training Command of The IAF Is In

- A. Bengaluru
- B. New Delhi
- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

15. 'Vaduz' Is The Capital Of

- A. Liechtenstein

- B. Libya
- C. Liberia
- D. Lebanon

ANSWER: A

16. "The Book of Bihari Literature" Book Written By

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Dr. Ambedkar
- C. Abhay K
- D. Samir Kumar Mahaseth

ANSWER: C

17. HFSDR Stands For

- A. High Frequency Man Packed Software Defined Radio
- B. High Frequency Meta Packed Software Defined Radio
- C. High Frequency Multi Packed Software Defined Radio
- D. None

ANSWER: A

18. 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

19. "Deep Shikha" Book Written By

- A. Narendra Modi
- B. Sitaram Yechuri
- C. Mahadevi Verma
- D. Dante

ANSWER: C

20. Commodore Rank Of Indian Navy Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of Indian Army?

- A. Brigadier
- B. Lt. Gen
- C. Captain

D. Major General

ANSWER: A

Courses

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