

Defence Current Affairs

13-14 August 2023

India Inducts New Strike-capable Drones At Forward Air Base

- In a mega capability boost, the Indian Air Force has inducted its latest **Heron Mark 2 drones**, which have strike capability and can carry out surveillance along the borders with both China and Pakistan in a single sortie itself.
- The four new **Heron Mark-2 drones**, which can be equipped with long-range missiles and other weapons systems, have been deployed at a forward air base in the northern sector, where Team witnessed their operations.
- The drones with satellite communication capability have given a long-desired capability to the IAF, as its drones can operate at very long distances for close to **36 hours** at a stretch and can also laser illuminate enemy targets from very long ranges to help fighter aircraft destroy them using their long-range weapons.



Naval Forces In Gulf Warn Ships Against Nearing Iranian Waters

- Western naval forces operating in the Gulf warned ships sailing in the strategic Strait of Hormuz against approaching Iranian waters to avoid the risk of seizure, according to statements issued over the weekend.
- "Vessels are being advised to transit as far away from Iranian territorial waters as possible" to minimise the risk of seizure, US Fifth Fleet spokesperson Commander Tim Hawkins told AFP.
- The International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC), led by Washington, is "notifying regional mariners of appropriate precautions to minimize the risk of seizure based on current regional tensions, which we seek to de-escalate," he added.
- The alliance, established in 2019, is made up of 11 countries, including the United States, Great Britain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Its mission, according to its website, is to "provide reassurance to merchant shipping in the Middle East region".
- The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) agency said late Saturday in a statement that it had been "made aware of an increased threat within the vicinity of Strait Of Hormuz", through which one-third of the world's oil transported by sea passes.



Smart Fences Set Up Along LOC To Thwart Infiltration Attempts

- The army has put in place smart fences based on cutting-edge sensor and CCTV camera technologies to thwart infiltration attempts along the (LoC), an official said.
- This has strengthened border security and surveillance, Jammu-based army public relations officer Lt Col Suneel Bartwal told a group of journalists who visited forward areas in the **Akhnoor and Poonch sectors**.
- The smart fences are part of the advancements in technology that the army has integrated into its operations along the LoC, he said.
- He said the state-of-the-art sensors and CCTV cameras are very difficult to bypass as these pick up even the slightest movement and immediately send alerts to the control centre.



Sixth Project 17A Frigate To Be Launched By President Murmu on August 17

- Vindhyagiri, a Project 17A Frigate, will be launched by President Droupadi Murmu at **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited** in Kolkata.
- Vindhyagiri, named after the mountain range in Karnataka, is the sixth ship of the Project 17A Frigates. These warships are follow-ons of the Project 17 Class Frigates (Shivalik Class), with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems.
- Under the Project 17A program, a total of four ships by M/s MDL and three ships by M/s GRSE are under construction. The project's first five ships have been launched by MDL and GRSE, between 2019-2022.



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Vindhyagiri, the sixth **Project 17A Frigate**, will be launched by President [#DroupadiMurmu](#), at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata on 17th August 23.

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Amit Shah Inaugurates Key Infrastructure Projects Along Indo-Pakistan Border

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the key infrastructure projects along the Indo-Pakistan border in Gujarat's Kachchh, said.
- "In a significant step towards enhancing border security and infrastructure, Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for a Mooring Place at Koteswar for the BSF in Kutch and also inaugurated the newly constructed Chidiyamod-Biarbet Link Road and OP Tower in the district's Harami Nala area."
- The Mooring Place project, with an outlay of 257 crore, stands unveiled as a testament to the government's unwavering commitment to bolster the capabilities of our border guarding forces.
- Home Minister also inaugurated the Chidiyamod-Biarbet Link Road and an OP Tower near BP No. 1164 in the Harami Nala area. The construction of the Link Road marks an important milestone in improving accessibility and connectivity to border areas, said the release.
- This newly constructed road of 28.2 Kms by CPWD at the cost of 106.2 crore is set to facilitate smoother movement of personnel and resources, thereby contributing to enhanced border management and security operations.
- OP Tower at BP 1164 in Harami Nala built at a cost of Rs 3 crore ensures the clock presence of BSF, strengthens security and makes this area impenetrable, added the release.



Indian Air Force's Garuds Deployed in Amarnath Yatra

- Two teams of Garud Special Forces of the IAF have been deployed in the Kashmir valley for counter-terrorism operations along with specialist operations in the Eastern Ladakh sector.
- Garud special forces carried out multiple operations in Kashmir valley practising counter-terrorism operations.
- Highly trained for conducting operations in hilly areas and urban terrain, the Garud Special Forces of IAF were initially deployed in the valley in 2007 and 2009 and redeployed in 2017.



Review Questions

1. IAF Procured Heron Mark 2 Drones From

- A. Qatar
- B. USA
- C. UAE
- D. Israel

ANSWER: D

2. Partition Horrors Remembrance Day Observed On

- A. 13 August
- B. 14 August
- C. 15 August
- D. 16 August

ANSWER: B

3. Vindhyagiri Frigate Manufactured By

- A. HSL
- B. GSL
- C. GRSE
- D. CSL

ANSWER: C

4. Nation Is Celebrating the ___ Independence Day 2023.

- A. 75th
- B. 76th
- C. 77th
- D. 78th

ANSWER: C

5. New Operating System (OS) of MoD Is

- A. Kaal
- B. Maya
- C. Pralay
- D. Marich

ANSWER: B

6. "Akashe Shatrun Jahi" Is The Motto

- A. Bombay Sappers
- B. Armoured Corps Regiments
- C. The Regiment Of Artillery
- D. Army Air Defence Regiments

ANSWER: D

7. The Primary Mission Of The Indian Army Is To Ensure

- A. National Security And National Unity
- B. Peace
- C. Air Quality Neat And Clean
- D. None

ANSWER: A

8. Cho La Incident Was Held

- A. 1967
- B. 1988
- C. 1998
- D. 1980

ANSWER: A

9. VL-SRSAM Is A Quick Reaction Surface-to-air Missile Developed By

- A. NASA
- B. BEL
- C. DRDO
- D. ISRO

ANSWER: C

10. Army Aviation Corps Center Is In

- A. Nasik
- B. Devlali
- C. Pune
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

11. Lt Commander Of Indian Navy Is Equivalent To The Which Rank Of Indian Army?

- A. Brigadier
- B. Captain
- C. Lt. Colonel
- D. Major

ANSWER: D

12. Peacetime Wartime Gallantry Award Is/Are

- A. Param Vir Chakra
- B. Maha Vir Chakra
- C. Vir Chakra
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: D

13. Berlin Is The Capital Of

- A. Guinea
- B. Qatar
- C. Guyana
- D. Germany

ANSWER: D

14. With reference to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India and Russia are the members of Shanghai Five.
2. The SCO's official languages are Chinese and English.
3. Recently, Iran became a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: B

15. North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Hq Is In

- A. Brussels, Belgium
- B. Berne, Switzerland
- C. Jakarta, Indonesia
- D. Kathmandu, Nepal

ANSWER: A

16. "Monsoon" Book Written By

- A. Abhay Kumar
- B. Rishi Raj
- C. Chetna Maroo
- D. None

ANSWER: A

17. Multinational Ex Sea Dragon Hosted By

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

18. SIMBEX Exercise Held B/W India And ___?

- A. USA
- B. South Korea
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Singapore

ANSWER: D

19. India Conducts The SAMPRITI Exercise With Which Of The Following Countries?

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. Nepal
- D. Bangladesh

ANSWER: D

20. India Purchased M777 Howitzer From

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A