

Defence Current Affairs

24 November 2023

Top LET Commander Among Two Terrorists Killed

- The official's said firing was halted in the night and the area was put under cordon. Firing resumed on Thursday morning, and two terrorist were killed, they said and added that the operation is in its final phase.
- Two terrorists, including a top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander trained in Afghanistan, were killed in a gunfight with security forces on Thursday in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said. On Wednesday, **four army personnel**, including **two captains**, were killed and two others injured in the operation against the terrorists in the Dharmsal belt's Bajimaal area.
- Captain MV Pranjal from Mangalore in Karnataka, and Captain Shubham Gupta of Agra in Uttar Pradesh, both from the 63 Rashtriya Rifles, were killed in a fierce gunbattle on Wednesday along with Havaldar Abdul Majid of 9 Para (Special Forces) from Ajote in Poonch, Lance Naik Sanjay Bisht of Halli Padli in Nainital of Uttarakhand.





Inter Command Ocean Sailing Race

- In a celebration of maritime skill and adventure, the Indian Navy flagged off the second edition of Inter Command Ocean Sailing Race 2023 from Kochi to Goa in a spectacular ceremony at Naval Base, Kochi on 22 Nov 23.
- The race is featuring four 40 footer Indian Naval Sailing Vessels (INSVs) Bulbul, Neelkanth, Kadalpur and Hariyal promising an adventurous journey in the Arabian sea. Each sailboat is crewed by eight personnel from three Naval commands and a combined team of Andaman & Nicobar Command and NHQ.
- Indian Navy has made significant efforts to revitalise the sailing tradition, emphasising its commitment to preserve maritime heritage and promote seamanship skills. Through the pioneering efforts of Sail Training Ships INS Tarangini & INS Sudarshini and circumnavigation onboard INSVs Mhadei and Tarani, the Indian Navy has taken a centre stage in Ocean Sailing expeditions.



China Created World's First 'Near-space Command'

- China has reportedly established the world's first 'near-space command,' equipped with powerful hypersonic weapons, according to Hong Kong's SCMP.
- According to the report, the new force will serve as the People's Liberation Army's fifth force, alongside the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Rocket Force.
- Near Space refers to the area in Earth's atmosphere, approximately 20 to 100 km from the Earth's surface, known as the mesosphere.
- In this region, air is very thin, preventing traditional military aircraft from flying, and gravity is strong enough to prevent satellites from remaining in orbit, creating a No-Man's land region.
- However, hypersonic missiles can easily operate in this area due to the rarefied atmosphere, enabling them to fly at hypersonic speeds for long ranges.
- The characteristics of the near-space region are what the Chinese hope to exploit using the 'near-space' command.



UK Warship HMS Spey Makes Inaugural Visit To A&NC

- The Royal Navy warship HMS Spey has made her inaugural visit to India, following in the footsteps of sister vessel HMS Tamar, according to the British High Commission.
- The Batch 2 Offshore Patrol Vessel arrived in Port Blair, the capital city of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. UK's Defence Adviser to India, Brigadier Nick Sawyer, said, "We deeply value our relationship with India in a shared

endeavour to confront those who challenge the rules-based system and ensure peace and prosperity on and from the sea.”



Maldives President Muizzu Inspects India-assisted Greater Male Connectivity Project

- Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu visited the site of 'Greater Male Connectivity - Male to Thilafushi Link Project' and took stock of the progress, according to a statement from the Maldives Presidency.
- Notably, the mega infrastructure project in Male is being made with the assistance of India.
- Earlier in August, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih launched the 'Greater Male connectivity projects in the Maldives' and also entered pacts in areas like cyber security, disaster management, and police infrastructure development.
- The Male connectivity projects will be built under India's USD 100 million grant and **USD 400 million line of Credit**. India also extended a USD 100 million line of credit for development projects in the Maldives. Both countries exchanged six documents on areas like cyber security, disaster management, and police infrastructure development.



India Conducting Military Drills With Russia & The US

- Amid the ongoing crisis with Ukraine, a duo of destroyers from Russia's Pacific Fleet have arrived at the Bay of Bengal. Here, they've embarked on joint training manoeuvres with the Indian Navy.
- The collaboration with Russia coincided with the Indian Army's involvement in the Vajra Prahar training exercise at Umroi, Meghalaya, where they partnered with the US Army Special Forces.
- Regardless, India has yet to release an official announcement regarding this exercise. Based on details from the Russian Defense Ministry, the event is scheduled to run through Wednesday.
- Participating vessels from Russia's Pacific Fleet included the Admiral Tributs, an anti-submarine destroyer.
- In the second week of November, Russia initiated the Myanmar-Russia Maritime Security **Exercise [MARUMEX]**, its inaugural joint naval exercise with Myanmar. This move signifies an expansion of security cooperation between the countries, integrating both naval vessels and aircraft.



Review Questions

1. Inter Command Ocean Sailing Race Flagged Off By

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

ANSWER: A

2. World's First 'Near-space Command' Created By

- A. USA
- B. China
- C. Bharat
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

3. Joint Exercises B/w The India And Russia Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. Garuda
- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: C

4. Army Cadet College Is At

- A. Prayagraj
- B. Pune
- C. Kochi
- D. Dehradun

ANSWER: D

5. Combat Army Aviation Training School Is At

- A. Nashik
- B. Pune
- C. Nagpur
- D. Dehradun

ANSWER: A

6. Valletta Is The Capital Of

- A. Malta
- B. Mauritania
- C. UAE
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

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

- A. Yama
- B. Garuda
- C. Shakti
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: C

8. C –DAC Stands For

- A. Centre for Direct of Advanced Computing
- B. Centre for Development of Advanced Computer
- C. Centre for Development of Advocate Computing
- D. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing

ANSWER: D

9. Where Is The Hq Of The Western Command of The Indian Army?

- A. Kochi
- B. Chand mandir
- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: B

10. Ex 'Vajra Prahar' conducted b/w India &

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

ANSWER: D

11. "The Crossfire of Love" Book Is Written By

- A. Dhiren Tiwari

- B. Dharmendra Rai
- C. Sudha Murty
- D. V. Krishnaswamy

ANSWER: A

12. 'Sahyog-Kaijin' is an annual joint exercise between the Coast Guards of India and which country?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. China
- C. Japan
- D. Sri Lanka

ANSWER: C

13. Dhanush, A Missile Inducted Into The Indian Navy

- A. cannot carry nuclear warheads
- B. is a customized and naval variant of Prithvi missile
- C. has a range of 700 km
- D. can be launched from an aircraft

ANSWER: B

14. GEORGETOWN Is The Capital Of

- A. GUINEA-BISSAU
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. GUYANA

ANSWER: D

15. "Man and Superman" Book Is Written By

- A. George Bernard Shaw
- B. Gunnar Myrdal
- C. Lewis Wallace
- D. Jules Verne

ANSWER: A

16. The Commando Unit Of The Indian Air Force Is Named

- A. Ghatak
- B. MARCOS
- C. Garud

D. Baaz

ANSWER: C

17. Which Of The Following Corps Deals With The Supply Of Weaponry And Ammunition To The Indian Army?

- A. Armoured Corps
- B. Army Ordnance Corps
- C. Corps of EME
- D. Army Supply Corps

ANSWER: B

18. At which of the following places is the headquarters of a Naval Command NOT located?

- A. Goa
- B. Kandla
- C. Mumbai
- D. Both A&B

ANSWER: D

19. The Country That Shares Longest Border With India Is

- A. China
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Nepal
- D. Pakistan

ANSWER: B

20. At which of the following places is the Indian National Defence University being set up?

- A. Gurgaon, Haryana
- B. Amethi, Uttar Pradesh
- C. Kasargod, Kerala
- D. Medak, Andhra Pradesh

ANSWER: A