

Defence Current Affairs

05 December 2023

Khalistani Terrorist Lakhbir Singh Rode Dies

- Khalistani separatist Lakhbir Singh alias 'Rode', a designated terrorist under the Indian law, has died recently in Pakistan, where he had taken refuge after his uncle Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale was killed in 1984 during an army action, officials said on Tuesday. Singh, whose ancestral village was at Rode in Moga district, died at a hospital in Rawalpindi following a massive heart attack, the officials said. Some reports suggest that he died on Monday while others indicate that he breathed his last on Saturday.
- The self-styled chief of banned Khalistan Liberation Front was an accused in various cases and had a Red Corner notice issued by the Interpol at the request of India.
- He was actively engaged in sending weapon and explosive consignments from across the border to India to carry out terrorist activities in Punjab.
- He is among the 20 most wanted terrorists whose extradition India has sought from Pakistan in the wake of the December 13, 2001, attack on Parliament by a five-member group of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists.
- **What is the Khalistan Movement?**
- The Khalistan movement is a fight for a separate, sovereign Sikh state in present day Punjab (both India and Pakistan).
- The demand has resurfaced many times, most prominently during a violent insurgency in the 1970s and 1980s which paralyzed Punjab for over a decade.
- The movement was crushed in India following Operation Blue Star (1984) and Operation Black Thunder (1986 and 1988), but it continues to evoke sympathy and support among sections of the Sikh population, especially in the Sikh diaspora in countries such as Canada, the UK, and Australia.



INS Kadmatt At Yokosuka, Japan

- INS Kadmatt, on a Long-Range Operational Deployment to the North Pacific Ocean entered Yokosuka, Japan on Dec 02, 2023, for an Operational Turnaround (OTR).
- Onboard visits including professional interactions and community welfare activities are planned during the stay. Interactions with the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force will include cross-ship visits, professional exchange of ideas, Joint Yoga Camp, and coordination meeting for the MPX.
- Recently, INS Kadmatt has also undertaken fuelling with JMSDF Fast Combat Support Ship, JS Towada on 28 Nov 2023, off Okinawa, under the tenets of the Reciprocal Provisioning of Supply and Services signed between both navies.



Major Reshuffle In Navy Top Brass

- A major reshuffle will be taking place in the Indian Navy top brass as a series of new appointments have been made. **WNC Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi** will be taking over as the **new Vice Chief of the force** on January 4 next month.
- The Vice Chief of Naval Staff is responsible for the modernisation of the force and Vice Admiral Tripathi would be taking over the charge of the office when critical acquisitions including that of MQ-9B Predator drones and Rafale fighter jets are taking place.
- **Vice Admiral Tripathi** would be replacing **Vice Admiral SJ Singh** who is now being moved to command the Western Navy headquartered in Mumbai after being in the Vice Chief office for around 9 months.
- The Southern Naval Command will also get a new chief as the incumbent **Vice Admiral Admiral Hampiholi** is retiring at the end of this month and will be repacked by **Vice Admiral Srinivas**.



ICG Sajag Makes Port Call At Dammam

- Indian Coast Guard Ship Sajag, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, made port call at King Abdul Aziz Port, AD Dammam, Saudi Arabia on 05 Dec 2023 on a three-day visit.
- The visit aims to strengthen long standing diplomatic ties and enhance cooperative engagements with the Saudi Border Guards and Saudi Naval Forces personnel towards professional exchange/interactions such as training on Vessel Board Search & Seizure, Maritime Search & Rescue, cross-deck visits, Tabletop Exercise on Marine Pollution Response.

- The visit of ICGS Sajag to West Asia accentuates India's warm and cordial relations with Gulf countries and further reiterate to foster friendly relations through maritime cooperation in consonance with the maritime vision of India "SAGAR - Security and Growth for All in the Region".
- ICG Ship Sajag is part of the Indian Coast Guard fleet of OPVs, based on the West Coast of India in Porbandar, Gujarat, and operates under the operational command of Commander Coast Guard Region (Northwest).



IAF Officer Manisha Padhi Appointed India's First Woman Aide De Camp

- Squadron leader Manisha Padhi, a 2015 batch IAF officer, became the first woman in the country to ascend to the post of Aide-de-Camp (ADC).
- Mizoram Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, on November 29, appointed Squadron Leader Padhi as the ADC from the armed forces at a brief ceremony held at the Raj Bhawan in the state capital, Aizawl.
- Squadron Leader Padhi formally joined her post and reported to the Governor on November 29. She was introduced to the officers and staff of the Raj Bhavan at Aizawl.



Cyclone Michaung: IAF Chetak Helicopters Deployed For Cyclone

- As Cyclone Michaung continues to wreak havoc in Tamil Nadu, IAF Chetak helicopters have been deployed for flood relief operations in Tamil Nadu's Chennai.
- These included food packets and rations for people stranded in cyclone-hit areas in Chennai that were cut off due to flooding. More sorties would be launched to distribute relief supplies in other affected areas, they added.
- The entire operation is being conducted in close liaison with the Tamil Nadu state government and Air Force Station Tambaram.
- Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu Government Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena said the transport and the main roads--the public transport--are operating. And, hopefully, very soon, the situation will return to normalcy.



China To Hold 2nd Indian Ocean Region Forum

- China this week will hold the second conference of its Indian Ocean Region Forum, an initiative to bring together several countries in the region in an attempt to solidify its influence in the strategic waters adjacent to India's backyard.
- Last year the China International Development Cooperation Agency, an organisation part of the ruling Communist Party of China's Leadership Group,

held a meeting of the China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development Cooperation in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province in southwest China.

- The CIDCA claimed 19 countries including **Indonesia, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Afghanistan, Iran, Oman, South Africa, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius, Djibouti, Australia** took part in the conference.
- Australia and Maldives subsequently denied their participation. India was not invited to the meeting. The Chinese forum is apparently aimed at countering India's strong influence in the Indian Ocean region where India-backed organisations like the IORA which has a membership of 23 countries, have taken strong roots.
- China is a dialogue partner in the IORA formed in 1997. Besides IORA, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed "**Security and Growth for All in the Region**" (**SAGAR**) in 2015 for active cooperation among the littoral countries of the Indian Ocean region.
- The Indian Navy-backed '**Indian Ocean Naval Symposium**' (IONS) seeks to increase maritime cooperation among navies of the region.



Review Questions

1. **Why did ICG Ship Sajag make a port call at King Abdul Aziz Port in Saudi Arabia on December 5, 2023?**
 - A. To participate in a naval exercise
 - B. To attend Navy Day celebrations
 - C. To strengthen diplomatic ties and engage in professional exchanges.

D. To deliver relief supplies

ANSWER: C

2. Where did PM Modi witness the 'Operational Demonstrations' by Indian Navy's ships, submarines, aircraft, and special forces?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Tarkarli beach, Sindhudurg
- C. Chennai
- D. Dammam, Saudi Arabia

ANSWER: B

3. Which city saw the delivery of the first Survey Vessel (Large) ship, Sandhayak (Yard 3025)?

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

ANSWER: A

4. What role have IAF Chetak helicopters played in response to 'Michaung' in Tamil Nadu?

- A. Conducting aerial surveillance
- B. Evacuating civilians
- C. Participating in a naval exercise
- D. Deployed for flood relief operations.

ANSWER: D

5. During the Kargil War Who Was The COAS of the Indian Army?

- A. V.K Singh
- B. J.J Singh
- C. V. P. Malik
- D. SHF Manekshaw

ANSWER: C

6. Current Defence Secretary of India Is

- A. V. S Pathania
- B. Sandeep Deo
- C. Rajiv Gauba
- D. Ajay Kumar

ANSWER: D

7. QRFV Stands For

- A. Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle
- B. Query Reaction Fighting Vehicle
- C. Quick Reaction Fighter Vehicle
- D. Quick Reactive Fighting Vehicle

ANSWER: A

8. International Space Station is a multinational collaborative project involving

- A. NASA, Roscosmos, JAXA, ESA, ISRO
- B. NASA, Roscosmos, JAXA, CSA
- C. NASA, Roscosmos, JAXA, ESA, CSA
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

9. Ex 'Ajeya Warrior' conducted b/w India &

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

ANSWER: D

10. Dhanush (howitzer) Manufactured By

- A. L & T
- B. Boeing
- C. ISRO
- D. Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited

ANSWER: D

11. What Is LGM-30 Minuteman III Is A

- A. ICBM
- B. IRBM
- C. MRBM
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

12. Which is the highest rank of the Indian Army?

- A. Major General

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

ANSWER: A

13. Which country is NOT included in the Quad Group?

- A. United States of America
- B. Australia
- C. Russia
- D. India

ANSWER: C

14. Which Countries Are Divided By The Nine Dash Line?

- A. People's Republic of China and PRC Taiwan
- B. Afghanistan and Pakistan
- C. Afghanistan and Iran
- D. India and Myanmar

ANSWER: A

15. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station is in ____.

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Gujarat
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: B

16. In Nuclear Power Station, Moderator Is Used To,

- A. absorb neutrons
- B. reduce the speed of neutrons
- C. accelerate the speed of neutrons
- D. stop chain reactions

ANSWER: B

17. Pristina Is The Capital Of

- A. Kiribati
- B. Kuwait
- C. Kosovo
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: C

18. Who Is The Author Of The Book Long Walk To Freedom?

- A. Louis Fischer
- B. Mao Tse Tung
- C. Nelson Mandela
- D. Aung Sang Su Kyi

ANSWER: C

19. Which Is/Are Military Honour?

- A. Mahavir Chakra
- B. Kirti Chakra
- C. Vir Chakra
- D. All of the above

ANSWER: D

20. Which Corps Of Indian Army Handles Military Communications?

- A. Army Service Corps
- B. Army Aviation Corps
- C. Corps of Signals
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C