

Defence Current Affairs

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EXERCISE “VINBAX-2023”

- The Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel reached Hanoi, Vietnam to take part in the fourth edition of Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023. The exercise will be conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam from 11th to 21st December 2023.
- The Indian contingent comprises 39 personnel from an Engineer Regiment of Bengal Engineer Group and six personnel of Army Medical Corps. The Vietnam People’s Army contingent will also be represented by 45 personnel.
- Exercise VINBAX was instituted in 2018 and the first edition was conducted at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. It is an annual training event conducted alternatively in India and Vietnam. Last edition was conducted at Chandimandir Military Station in August 2022.



Captain Fatima Wasim Becomes First Woman Medical Officer To Be Deployed On Siachen Glacier

- Captain Fatima Wasim of the Siachen Warriors created history by becoming the first woman medical officer to be deployed to an operational post on the Siachen Glacier, said the Indian Army's Fire and Fury Corps in a post on X.

- "She (Captain Fatima Wasim) was inducted to a post at an altitude of 15,200 feet after undergoing rigorous training at Siachen Battle School, which speaks of her indomitable spirit and high motivation," Fire and Fury Corps posted on X.
- Earlier this month, **Captain Geetika Koul** from the Snow Leopard Brigade became the first woman medical officer of the Indian Army to be deployed at the world's highest battlefield, Siachen, after successfully completing the induction training at Siachen Battle School.



India, US and South Korea To Launch Technology Dialogue

- India, South Korea and the US will start an informal trilateral technology dialogue in the first quarter of 2024 in response to China's rapid progress in critical technologies within the Indo-Pacific region.
- The decision was taken at the inaugural US-South Korea Next Generation Critical & Emerging Technologies Dialogue held in Seoul on Friday.
- Hold National Security Council and National Security Office-led consultations with like-minded partners on critical and emerging technologies including through launching an informal trilateral technology.
- Recent developments also saw India and the US expanding the scope of the India-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) during a review meeting. The discussions covered biotechnology, critical minerals, rare earths processing technologies, digital connectivity, digital public infrastructure, and advanced materials.
- The Seoul meeting, chaired by US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and Republic of Korea (ROK) National Security Advisor Cho Tae-yong, outlined six

main strategic technology areas for cooperation. These include semiconductor supply chains and technology, biotechnology, batteries, clean energy technology, quantum science and technology, digital connectivity, and artificial intelligence.

- The National Security Advisors emphasised the importance of aligning and adapting technology protection toolkits, including mechanisms like the Disruptive Technology Protection Network and investment screening, to prevent the leakage of sensitive and dual-use technologies.



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EXAMS

UK Sends Two Minehunter Ships To Boost Ukraine

- Amid the Ukraine war against Russia, the United Kingdom has transferred two minehunter ships to Ukraine to strengthen the country's presence in the Black Sea, Al Jazeera reported on Monday.
- It reported quoting the UK's Ministry of Defence (MoD) which announced Ukraine's procurement of the two Royal Navy vessels on Monday. The deal is part of a new Maritime Capability Coalition, led by Britain and Norway, aimed at providing long-term military support to bolster security in the Black Sea.
- The UK is the second-largest provider of military aid to Ukraine, after the US.
- The two Sandown-class mine countermeasures vessels were procured by Ukraine through UK Export Finance, Al Jazeera reported.



95 drones, mostly from Punjab, recovered; BSF deployment increased: Special DG

- BSF Special Director General, Western Command, Yogesh Bahadur Khurania, on Monday said that a total of 95 drones, mostly from Punjab, have been recovered this year. He added that many steps, including increasing troops deployment and conducting vulnerability mapping, have been taken to prevent smuggling of narcotics and weapons from across the border.
- The Western Command of the Border Security Force (BSF) is responsible for effective border management on the India-Pakistan border with five frontiers Kashmir, Jammu, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- Addressing the media here, Khurania said that narcotics smuggling has been seen as a challenge for a long time in Punjab and some areas of Rajasthan and Jammu.
- He further said that CCTVs would be installed under a plan at vulnerable points near the border areas in Punjab to prevent smuggling activities, adding they will be installed by March 2024.
- Khurania said that a detailed SOP (standard operating procedure) has been prepared for the jawans on how to deal with the drones coming from across the border.

Review Questions

- 1. Exercise “VINBAX-2023” Held In**
A. Hanoi

- B. Mumbai
- C. Panaji
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: A

2. Who Becomes First Woman Medical Officer To Be Deployed On Siachen Glacier?

- A. Captain Fatima Wasim
- B. Captain Bhavna Kanth
- C. Captain Reema Singh
- D. None

ANSWER: A

3. Which of the following organizations has Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha as its slogan?

- A. Indian Air Force
- B. National Security Guard
- C. Sikh Light Infantry
- D. Border Security Force

ANSWER: B

4. Daulat Beg Oldie, a well-known airstrip for the supply of provisions to the armed forces is located in –

- A. Sikkim
- B. Ladakh
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Andaman Islands

ANSWER: B

5. Who of the following was the first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra, gallantry award?

- A. Major Somnath Sharma
- B. Major Shaitan Singh
- C. Lance Naik Albert Ekka
- D. Havildar Abdul Hamid

ANSWER: A

6. Who of the following was the Chief of Army at the time of Indo-Pak war of 1971?

- A. Field Marshall SHFJ Manekshaw
- B. General JN Chaudhari
- C. General KS Thimayya
- D. General PP Kumaramangalam

ANSWER: A

7. Which of the following is the equivalent rank in the Army of the Naval rank of Captain?

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

ANSWER: B

8. Which of the following is the home base of the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya?

- A. Karwar
- B. Jamnagar
- C. Cochin
- D. Visakhapatnam

ANSWER: A

9. The department of Atomic Energy was established in

- A. 1948
- B. 1954
- C. 1963
- D. 1971

ANSWER: B

10. The Country's First Indigenously Built Missile Boat Was.

- A. INS Vibhuti
- B. INS Vipul
- C. INS Savitri
- D. INS Shakti

ANSWER: A

11. Who was the first Indian to go into space?

- A. Rakesh Sharma

- B. Satish Dhawan
- C. Kalpana Chawla
- D. Ravi Malhotra

ANSWER: A

12. What was the code name of the operation to conduct nuclear test at Pokhran in May 1998?

- A. Shakti
- B. Hansa
- C. Buddha
- D. Shiva

ANSWER: A

13. The Uri Hydroelectric project is located in

- A. Jammu and Kashmir
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Haryana

ANSWER: A

14. When did India enter into space age by launching the satellite 'Aryabhata'?

- A. 1966
- B. 1932
- C. 1975
- D. 1990

ANSWER: C

15. "CTBT" is a term related to

- A. Nuclear weapons
- B. Electric House
- C. Space Research
- D. Atomic Research

ANSWER: A

16. Which of the following Indian states does NOT share its boundaries with Nepal?

- A. West Bengal
- B. Sikkim

- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Assam

ANSWER: D

17. "How to Prevent the Next Pandemic" Book Is Written By

- A. Bill Gates
- B. Rajiv Bhatia
- C. J. Sai Deepak
- D. Samuel Moyn

ANSWER: A

18. Operation Devi Shakti Was Conducted In

- A. 2016
- B. 2017
- C. 2018
- D. 2021

ANSWER: D

19. SSLV Stands For

- A. Small Satellite Low Vehicle
- B. Small Satellite Launch Velocity
- C. Small Satellite Launch Vehicle
- D. None

ANSWER: C

20. President's Bodyguard Motto Is

- A. Jai Hind
- B. Sarvda Shaktishali
- C. Bharat Mata Ki Jai
- D. Rashtra Pratham

ANSWER: C