

Defence Current Affairs

13 December 2023

ICG organises 15th Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meet

- The ICG is organising the 15th edition of Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting with the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from December 11 to 15, 2023.
- **The objective** of the meeting is to understand the updated **situation of maritime piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia**, exchange each other's experiences and evolve best practices to tackle such incidents with a collaborative approach from all the contracting parties.
- The ReCAAP is the first and only regional government-to-government agreement to enhance cooperation to suppress piracy. India became the 10th country to ratify the ReCAAP agreement enabling it to enter into force on September 04, 2006. Now, there are 21 countries contracting party to the ReCAAP agreement.



Western Air Command Commanders' Conference 2023

- A two-day Commanders' Conference of Western Air Command (WAC) of the Indian Air Force was held on 11 and 12 Dec 23 at New Delhi. Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) was the chief guest.
- During the conference, the CAS interacted with commanders of the WAC AoR (Area of Responsibility) and discussed the impact of emerging technologies, the need for capability enhancement and fully harnessing the potential of human resources.
- The CAS emphasised embracing a disruptive pattern of training while fostering a culture of discipline. He urged the Commanders to keep pace with the global technological developments especially in the newer domains of space, cyber and electronic warfare.



Indo-US Special Forces Wrap Up "Vajra Prahar"

- In a significant display of military collaboration and shared expertise, the **14th edition** of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise, "Vajra Prahar 2023," concluded successfully at the Joint Training Node in **Umroi, Meghalaya**.
- The US contingent was represented by personnel from the 1st Special Forces Group (SFG) of the US Special Forces. The Indian Army contingent was led by Special Forces personnel from the Eastern Command.
- Exercise Vajra Prahar is a joint exercise conducted between the Indian Army and US Army Special Forces, the ministry said in a press release.



Defence Ministry clears 70,000 Sig Sauer assault rifles for Indian Army

- In a major boost to the firepower of soldiers, the Indian Army will get 70,000 more Sig Sauer assault rifles which will be given to troops deployed in counterterrorism operations and other duties.
- India has already inducted over 70,000 of these American-made assault rifles, which are being used by forces in the Ladakh sector along the China front and also in Kashmir valley. The plan to buy these rifles was taken by the force initially as it wanted to have a rifle with a longer range.
- In February 2019, 72,400 SiG 716 rifles -- 66,400 for the Army, 4,000 for the Air Force and 2,000 for the Navy -- of 7.62 x 51mm calibre were bought from SIG Sauer of the US.
- The Indian forces are also going to soon get the **AK-203** being produced by the joint venture between two companies in the ordnance factory near Amethi.



IAF Is Planning To Become The Indian Air And Space Force

- The IAF is undergoing a significant transformation as it seeks to become the **Indian Air and Space Force (IASF)** and expand its capabilities in the aerospace domain.
- In line with this transformation, the IAF is intensifying its efforts to fully exploit the potential of space, moving beyond its current focus on intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, communication, and navigation capabilities.
- The IAF envisions India having over 100 military satellites, both large and small, within the next seven to eight years, with active participation from the private sector. Additionally, the **Defence Space Agency**, established in 2019, is set to evolve into a fully-fledged **Space Command**.
- IAF chief ACM V R Chaudhari in recent months has also repeatedly stressed the need for India to develop both defensive and offensive capabilities in the space domain by building on the success of 'Mission Shakti' in **March 2019**.
- DRDO had then tested an anti-satellite (A-Sat) interceptor missile to destroy the 740-kg Microsat -R satellite at an altitude of 283-km in low earth orbit.
- If China has the **People's Liberation Army Strategic Support Force** for the space domain, the US created a full-fledged Space Force (**USSF**) as a distinct branch of its armed forces in 2019. Several other countries like the **UK, Japan, France and Russia** also have space commands or wings in their air forces.



Review Questions

1. Where did the 14th edition of the exercise, "Vajra Prahar 2023," take place?

- A. Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- B. New Delhi
- C. Umroi, Meghalaya
- D. Mumbai, Maharashtra

ANSWER: C

2. Who was the Chief Guest at Commanders' Conference of Western Air Command?

- A. Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B. Admiral Karambir Singh
- C. Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari
- D. General Bipin Rawat

ANSWER: C

3. What is the purpose of the 15th edition of CBSOM-2023 organized by the Indian Coast Guard?

- A. Counter-terrorism operations
- B. Disaster management coordination
- C. Capacity building for senior officers
- D. Naval fleet modernization

ANSWER: C

4. Where is the BARC's Research Centre?

- A. Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre, Kolkata
- B. Nuclear Research Lab, Kashmir
- C. High Altitude Research Lab, Gulmarg
- D. All of the above

ANSWER: D

5. Which of the following is India's first indigenously developed nuclear powered submarine?

- A. INS Arihant
- B. INS Sindhurakshak
- C. INS Trikhant
- D. INS Vikrant

ANSWER: A

6. 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

7. The commando unit of the Indian Air Force is named.

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

ANSWER: C

8. 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

9. What was the name given to the operation conducted by National Security Guard in 2008 against terrorist attack in Taj hotel, Mumbai?

- A. Operation Vijay
- B. Operation Black Thunder
- C. Operation Black Tornado
- D. Operation Safed Sagar

ANSWER: C

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

- A. Goa
- B. Visakhapatnam
- C. Mumbai
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: A

11. On which of the following dates is the Navy Day celebrated in India?

- A. December 4
- B. February 1
- C. October 8
- D. January 15

ANSWER: A

12. The country that shares the longest border with India is

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

ANSWER: B

13. How many Indian states share border with Bhutan?

- A. 5
- B. 3
- C. 2
- D. 4

ANSWER: D

14. "Indian Home Rule" Book Is Written By

- A. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan
- B. H. G. Wells
- C. Sitaram Yechuri
- D. M. K. Gandhi

ANSWER: D

15. The first nuclear reactor in India is

- A. Dhurva
- B. Harsha
- C. Apsara
- D. Vipula

ANSWER: C

16. 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

17. Which of the following aircraft is the air-to-air refueller of the Indian Air Force?

- A. Ilyushin – 78
- B. C – 130J Hercules
- C. Ilyushin – 76
- D. C – 17 Globemaster

ANSWER: A

18. Joint Exercises B/w The India And UK Is Called:

- A. Indradhanush
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: A

19. At which of the following places is the Heavy Vehicles Factory located?

- A. Avadi
- B. 24 Paraganas

- C. Kanpur
- D. Khadki

ANSWER: A

20. Defence Services Staff College is located In.

- A. Avadi
- B. 24 Paraganas
- C. Kanpur
- D. Wellington

ANSWER: D

