

Defence Current Affairs

18 December 2023

Exercise Astrashakti

- Looking to export its indigenous weapon systems, India has strongly demonstrated the firepower of its Akash surface-to-air (SAM) weapon system, where a single firing unit simultaneously engaged and destroyed four unmanned targets during the recent Exercise Astrashakti 2023.
- With this demonstration during the Air Force Exercise Astrashakti-2023, **India has become the first to demonstrate the capability of engaging four targets simultaneously** at such ranges by command guidance using a single firing unit
- Explaining the trials, the officials said that during the exercise, four targets were coming from same direction in a close formation and were split to attack their own defence assets from multiple directions simultaneously.
- "The Akash firing unit was deployed with Firing Level Radar, Firing Control Centre (FCC), and two Akash Air Force Launcher launchers having five armed missiles," they said.
- The FLR was detected and tracked and the air scenario with four targets was updated to a higher echelon.



IAF Successfully Test fires 'SAMAR' Air Defence Missile System

- In a major success for its in-house design and development efforts, the Indian Air Force has successfully test fired its SAMAR air defence missile system.
- The IAF has developed the **Surface to Air Missile for Assured Retaliation (SAMAR) air defence missile system** by using its **old Russian-origin air-to-air missile systems**.
- The missile system participated for the first time in the exercise to test its surface-to-air weapon systems and carry out their operational field trials.
- The missile system successfully achieved firing trial objectives in different engagement scenarios, they said.
- The system can engage aerial threats with missiles operating at a speed range of **2 to 2.5 Mach**. The SAMAR system consists of a **twin-turret launch platform** with the capability of launching two missiles in single and salvo mode, depending on the threat scenario, the IAF officials said.



Combined Graduation Parade at AFA, Dundigal

- To mark the successful culmination of training of **213 Flight Cadets** of the flying and ground duty branches of the IAF, a CGP was held at the Air Force Academy, Dundigal in Telangana on December 17, 2023.
- The parade was reviewed by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, who also conferred the President's Commission on the graduating Flight Cadets. The

graduating officers included **25 women** who were commissioned in various branches of the IAF.

- Eight officers from the Indian Navy, nine from the Indian Coast Guard and two from friendly countries were also awarded 'Wings' following the completion of their flying training.



Indian Navy's Mission Deployed Platforms Respond To Hijacking Incident

- Indian Navy's Mission Deployed platforms responded swiftly to a maritime incident in Arabian Sea involving hijacking of **Malta Flagged Vessel MV Ruen**. The vessel, with 18 crew onboard, had sent a Mayday message on UKMTO portal, PM 14 Dec 23, indicating boarding by approx six unknown personnel.
- Responding swiftly to the developing situation, Indian Navy diverted its Naval Maritime Patrol aircraft undertaking surveillance in the area and its warship on Anti Piracy patrol in the Gulf Aden to locate & assist MV Ruen.
- The aircraft overflew the hijacked vessel on early morning of 15 Dec 23 and IN aircraft have been continuously monitoring movement of the vessel, which is now heading towards the coast of Somalia.
- Indian Navy's warship, mission deployed in Gulf of Aden for anti-piracy patrol, has also intercepted MV Ruen at early hours of 16 Dec 23.
- The overall situation is being closely monitored, in coordination with other agencies/ MNF in the area.



BSF Plans Marine Battalion, Drone Squadron To Secure Sunderbans

- A marine battalion comprising more than 1,100 personnel, a squadron of about 40 drones and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are part of a plan devised by the BSF to secure the strategic Sunderbans mangrove region along the India-Bangladesh border against smuggling and infiltration.
- The blueprint of the plan has been prepared by the Eastern Command of the border force based in Kolkata and a final approval and financial sanction from the Union Home Ministry in Delhi is awaited, official sources told PTI.
- The Sunderbans, the world's largest mangrove forest cover region is an archipelago of over 100 islands and a complex network of streams, rivers, tidal creeks and channels spread over an area of 9,630 sq km in India. The rest falls in Bangladesh.



Review Questions

1. 'SAMAR' Stands For

- A. Surface-to-Surface Missile For Assured Retaliation
- B. Surface-to-Sea Missile For Assured Retaliation
- C. Surface-to-air Missile For Assist Retaliation
- D. Surface-to-air Missile For Assured Retaliation

ANSWER: D

2. Exercise Astrashakti Conducted By

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

ANSWER: A

3. The First Indian Kilo-class Submarine Is

- A. INS Sindhughosh
- B. INS Utkrosh
- C. INS Arihant
- D. INS Delhi

ANSWER: A

4. India's Largest Floating Solar Power Project Commissioned In

- A. Pune, M.H.
- B. Chennai, T.N
- C. Ranikhet, UK
- D. Ramagundam, Telangana

ANSWER: D

5. ___ conducts successful first flight of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator.

- A. DRDO
- B. NASA
- C. HAL
- D. MDL

ANSWER: A

6. Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) Is Located In

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Chennai
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: B

7. Central Air Command of IAF Is Located In

- A. Shillong
- B. Gandhinagar
- C. Prayagraj
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

8. College of Air Warfare Is In

- A. Shillong
- B. Gandhinagar
- C. Prayagraj
- D. Secunderabad

ANSWER: D

9. INS Kochi Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Tank

ANSWER: A

10. IBSAMAR trilateral naval exercise held between India, Brazil and ___?

- A. North Korea
- B. Switzerland
- C. Singapore
- D. South Africa

ANSWER: D

11. MH-60 Romeo helicopters are procured by Indian Navy from which country?

- A. Russia
- B. Israel
- C. USA

D. Iran

ANSWER: C

12. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) comes under__

- A. Ministry of External Affairs
- B. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
- C. Ministry of Textiles
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: D

13. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) motto

- A. Always be there
- B. Service for Nation
- C. 24*7
- D. Disaster Service Forever

ANSWER: D

14. Belgrade Is The Capital Of

- A. Serbia
- B. Seychelles
- C. Sierra Leone
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

15. "The Struggle Within A Memoir of the Emergency" Book Is Written By

- A. Jairam Ramesh
- B. Late Baljit Kaur Tulsi
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Ashok Chakravarti

ANSWER: D

16. "Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)" developed by

- A. USA
- B. China
- C. India
- D. Russia

ANSWER: A

17. Third-generation anti-tank missile is _____?

- A. Prithvi
- B. Akash
- C. Trishul
- D. Nag

ANSWER: D

18. Range of the K-15 Sagarika missile is-

- A. 700 km
- B. 500 km
- C. 400 km
- D. 200 km

ANSWER: A

19. Which Honorary Rank does M.S Dhoni hold?

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

ANSWER: A

20. Which ship did the Indian Navy recently re-induct after extensive repairs and upgrades?

- A. INS Arihant
- B. INS Virat
- C. INS Tarmugli
- D. INS Sahyadri

ANSWER: C