

Defence Current Affairs

25 December 2023

Israel's Cost Of War: \$14 Billion, Tripling Deficit

- Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza will likely cost it at least another 50 billion shekels (\$14 billion) in 2024 and result in a near-tripling of its budget deficit, the finance ministry said on Monday, projecting that fighting will last through February.
- Briefing lawmakers, the ministry's deputy budget commissioner Itai Temkin said the war was expected to stretch at least two months into 2024, adding 30 billion shekels for security and another 20 billion for civilian and other expenses.
- That, he told the Knesset Finance Committee, would drive up total defence spending by more than 48 billion shekels beyond what had initially been allocated.
- Total budgetary spending in 2024 would rise to 562.1 billion shekels from a planned 513.7 billion and lead to a budget deficit of 5.9% of gross domestic product or GDP up from a target of 2.25%.



Taiwan Detects Four Chinese Naval Ships

- The Ministry of Defence of Taiwan, has tracked four Chinese Naval vessels and two military aircraft around Taiwan.
- According to Taiwan News, the naval ships and aircraft were tracked around the nation between 6 a.m. on Sunday (Dec. 24) and 6 a.m. on Monday (Dec. 25).
- Taiwan responded by sending planes and navy ships, as well as deploying air defence missile systems, to track the People's Liberation Army (PLA) actions, as per MND.
- During that period, no PLA aircraft crossed the Taiwan Strait median line or reached the southwest corner of Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ).
- China has intensified its use of grey zone tactics since September 2020 by gradually increasing the number of military aircraft and naval ships patrolling around Taiwan, according to Taiwan News.



Army To Deploy More Troops In Poonch Belt

- The Army is moving in additional troops to the Rajouri-Poonch sector after a spate of attacks on security personnel and increased activity by Pakistan origin terrorists who have created hideouts in thick forests close to the LoC.
- Sources said that troop deployments on the China border will not be impacted and additional forces will be moved to the terror impacted region, even from outside of Jammu and Kashmir if required.
- The Army is looking to crack down on terror modules that have scaled up attacks in Poonch-Rajouri sector, with forces suspecting a nexus between

Pakistan and China to revive terrorism in the sector to pressurize removal of troops from Ladakh.

- Troops with the **Rashtriya Rifles - a specialist counter insurgency force** - were moved to Ladakh after China brought in thousands of troops to disputed areas along the Line of Actual Control in 2020.



Year-ender: 2023 Witnesses Record Defence Exports, All-time High Productions

- As a result of the government's shift from viewing India as a net importer to a net exporter over the past few years, the defence sector has seen a quantum jump.
- The year 2023 was a landmark year for the Ministry of Defence as it witnessed defence exports reaching an all-time high--almost Rs 3,000 crore more than the previous financial year--and defence productions crossing the figure of Rs one lakh crore for the first time.
- The Fifth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) comprising 98 items was released by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the plenary session of 'Swavlamban 2.0'.
- In FY 2023-24, the Ministry of Defence was allocated a total budget of Rs 5.94 lakh crore, which is 13.18 percent of the total budget (Rs 45.03 lakh crore). The capital outlay of modernisation and infrastructure development was increased to Rs 1.63 lakh crore.



Macron At R-Day

- President Emmanuel Macron's acceptance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's last-minute invite, after US President Joe Biden conveyed his unavailability, signals a high point for India-France ties.
- Prime Minister Modi was the guest of honour at the Bastille Day Parade in Paris in July. It will be the sixth time a French leader will be the chief guest at the R-Day celebrations. India and France elevated their diplomatic relationship to 'strategic partnership' in 1998. This year marks its 25th anniversary.
- France has emerged as one of India's closest partners in Europe. A standout feature has been the eagerness on both sides for a mutually beneficial convergence. The bilateral talks will give the two leaders an opportunity to review the progress made on the key pillars of the strategic partnership, including space, climate change, security, civil nuclear technology and resilient supply chains.



Review Questions

1. 'Veer Bal Diwas' Is Observed On

- A. 24 December
- B. 25 December
- C. 26 December
- D. 27 December

ANSWER: C

2. Which Of The Following Is The Destroyer?

- A. INS Arihant
- B. INS Vagsheer
- C. INS Imphal
- D. All of the above

ANSWER: C

3. MCEME Stands For

- A. Military College of Element and Mechanical Engineering
- B. Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering
- C. Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Entry
- D. None

ANSWER: B

4. MCEME Situated In

- A. Secunderabad
- B. Pune
- C. Lucknow
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: A

5. IAC VIKRANT Is Constructed By

- A. MDL
- B. CSL
- C. GRSE
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

6. Air Force Technical College (AFTC) Located At

- A. Bangalore
- B. Noida
- C. Jaipur
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: A

7. Institute of National Integration Is In

- A. Pune
- B. Noida
- C. Jaipur
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

8. Ajeya Warrior Ex Conducts B/W

- A. India & Indonesia
- B. India & UK
- C. India & Sri Lanka
- D. India & Thailand

ANSWER: B

9. Which Is Not The Member Of SAARC?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Myanmar
- C. India
- D. Pakistan

ANSWER: B

10. National Crime Records Bureau Was Set up In

- A. 1986
- B. 1987
- C. 1988
- D. 1989

ANSWER: A

11. AUKUS Stands For

- A. Azerbaijan, the United Kingdom, & the United States
- B. Australia, the United Kingdom, & the United States
- C. Australia, the United Kingdom, & Uganda

D. Argentina, the United Kingdom, & the United States

ANSWER: B

12. Army Sports Institute Is In

- A. Pune
- B. Noida
- C. Jaipur
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

13. OPEC Hq Is In

- A. Budapest, Hungary
- B. New York, USA
- C. Luanda, Angola
- D. Vienna, Austria

ANSWER: D

14. Chairman Of The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) Is

- A. PM
- B. NSA
- C. CDS
- D. Home Minister

ANSWER: A

15. Baghdad Is The Capital Of GUARDS

- A. Iraq
- B. Iran
- C. UAE
- D. Saudi Arabia

ANSWER: A

16. "The Sikh History of East India" Book Is Written By

- A. Abinash Mohapatra
- B. Avinash Khemka
- C. Rajesh Talwar
- D. Vinod Rai

ANSWER: A

17. International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Hq Is At

- A. London, United Kingdom
- B. Vienna, Austria
- C. Paris, France
- D. Geneva, Switzerland

ANSWER: A

18. The Army Training Command Of The Indian Army Is In

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Pune
- D. Shimla

ANSWER: D

19. Commodore Rank Of Indian Navy Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of Indian Army?

- A. Brigadier
- B. Lt. Gen
- C. Captain
- D. Major General

ANSWER: A

20. Air Commodore Rank of IAF Is Equivalent To Which Rank of Indian Army?

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

ANSWER: A