

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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US, Britain wage strikes against Iran-linked Houthis in Yemen

- The United States and Britain launched strikes against 36 Houthi targets in Yemen on Saturday, in the second day of major U.S. operations against Iran-linked groups following a deadly attack on American troops last weekend.
- The strikes hit buried weapons storage facilities, missile systems, launchers and other capabilities the Houthis have used to attack Red Sea shipping, the Pentagon said, adding it targeted 13 locations across the country.
- It was the latest sign of spreading conflict in the Middle East since war erupted between Israel and Hamas after the militant Palestinian group's deadly assault on Israel on Oct. 7.
- "This collective action sends a clear message to the Houthis that they will continue to bear further consequences if they do not end their illegal attacks on international shipping and naval vessels," U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said.
- The Yemen strikes are running parallel to an unfolding U.S. campaign of military retaliation over the killing of three American soldiers in a drone strike by Iran-backed militants on an outpost in Jordan.
- On Friday, the U.S. carried out the first wave of that retaliation, striking in Iraq and Syria against more than 85 targets linked to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and militias it backs, reportedly killing nearly 40 people.



INS Sandhayak Commissioned

- **INS Sandhayak** (Yard 3025), the **first Survey Vessel Large (SVL) ship**, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at an impressive ceremony held at the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on February 03, 2024.
- The primary role of the ship is to carry out full scale hydrographic surveys of ports, harbours, navigational channels/routes, coastal areas and deep seas, towards enabling safe marine navigation. In its secondary role, the ship will be capable of undertaking a range of naval operations.
- The commissioning ceremony marked the formal induction of the first of the four ships of the SVL Project under construction at **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata**. The project has been steered by the **Warship Design Bureau of the Indian Navy**.
- The keel was laid on March 12, 2019, and the ship was launched on December 05, 2021. It has undergone a comprehensive schedule of trials in harbour and at sea, leading up to commissioning. The ship has a displacement of **3,400 tons** and an overall length of **110 meters** with a beam of **16m**.
- It is equipped with state-of-the-art hydrographic equipment including Deep & Shallow Water Multi-Beam Echo-Sounders, Autonomous Underwater Vehicle, Remotely Operated Vehicle, Side scan sonars, Data Acquisition and Processing System, satellite-based positioning systems and terrestrial survey equipment.
- The ship is propelled by **two Diesel Engines** and is capable of achieving speeds in excess of **18 knots**.



Delivery Of 25t Bollard Pull Tug, Mahabali

- 25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug, Mahabali has been delivered to Indian Navy on 02 Feb 24 in presence of Rear Admiral Subir Mukherjee, NM, ASY(Kochi). This Tug is a proud flag bearer of “Make in India” initiative of Govt of India.
- Contract for construction and delivery of three 25T BP Tugs was concluded with **M/s Shoft Shipyard Pvt Ltd** (M/s SSPL), an MSME, in consonance with “Aatmanirbhar Bharat” initiative of the Government of India. These Tugs are being built under the classification rules of Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).
- The availability of Tugs will provide impetus to Operational commitments of IN by facilitating assistance to Naval ships and submarines during berthing and unberthing, turning and maneuvering in confined waters.



Indian Navy's 'Operational Turn Around'

- Indian Navy's submarine **INS Karanj** is in Colombo for a two-day visit from February 3-5 for **Operational Turn Around** with the purpose of replenishing soil and provisions, the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka said in a statement.
- "The visit is an Operational Turn Around, wherein the submarine will replenish fuel and provisions. The crew will recuperate and have the opportunity of visiting places of interest in Colombo and Galle. The submarine will depart the island on February 5, 2024," the Indian High Commission added.
- Notably, INS Karanj is the third of the **Kalveri class submarines** commissioned into the Indian Navy on March 10, 2021.
- This is the **first foreign port call** for INS Karanj since its commissioning. Previously, another Kalveri class submarine, INS Vagir, visited Colombo in relation to the **International Day of Yoga** in June 2023.



UP ATS Arrests Pakistani Spy

- The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) said it has arrested an employee of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) posted in Moscow for allegedly spying for **Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI**.
- According to the ATS, the accused has been identified as Satendra Siwal, who was working as Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) at the MEA. Siwal was arrested in Meerut.
- ATS said, "The UP ATS had received inputs from several confidential sources that the Pakistani spy agency ISI's handlers had used money to influence some people working at the Foreign Ministry of India to leak top secret information regarding the Indian Army and its strategies.
- The ATS developed this information and through electronic surveillance and evidence collection, and it was found that Satendra Siwal, a native of the Hapur district of UP, who works at the Foreign Ministry as an MTS and is currently posted at the Indian Embassy in Moscow, Russia was involved in this."



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which Shipyard Is Responsible For The Construction Of The Four Survey Vessel Large (SVL) Ships?
 - A. GRSE
 - B. GSL
 - C. HSL
 - D. MDL

ANSWER: A

2. Which Company Delivered The 25T Bollard Pull Tug, Mahabali, To The Indian Navy?

- A. GRSE
- B. GSL
- C. HSL
- D. Shoft Shipyard Pvt Ltd (SSPL)

ANSWER: D

3. Which Military Force Is Scheduled To Conduct Exercise Vayu Shakti-24 On 17 February 2024?

- A. Indian Air Force
- B. Indian Navy
- C. Indian Army
- D. Coast Guard

ANSWER: A

4. Recently, the US State Department approved the sale of MQ-9B Sky Guardian drones to which country?

- A. Ukraine
- B. Taiwan
- C. Australia
- D. Bharat

ANSWER: D

5. When Has The Indian Navy Declared The 'Year of Naval Civilians'?

- A. 2025
- B. 2023
- C. 2022
- D. 2024

ANSWER: D

6. What Is SARVATRA In The Context Of The Indian Army's Defence Capabilities?

- A. Special Operations Force
- B. Tactical Reconnaissance System
- C. Rapid Deployment Platform
- D. Mobile Bridging System

ANSWER: D

7. C295 Aircraft Manufactured By

- A. Boeing
- B. Airbus
- C. HAL
- D. None

ANSWER: B

8. Indian Space Science Data Centre Is Located At

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

ANSWER: B

9. ___ Becomes Indian Army's First Woman Sky Diver

- A. Roop Rai
- B. Lance Naik Manju
- C. Corporal Manju
- D. None

ANSWER: B

10. ___ Plans To Establish The National Government Cloud To Store Sensitive Data.

- A. MOD
- B. MEA
- C. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

11. The Hawker Siddeley HS 748 Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Transport Aircraft

ANSWER: D

12. 'Swift and Sure' Is The Motto Of

- A.** Army Aviation Corps
- B.** Sikh Regiment

- C. Rajput Regiment
- D. Gorkha

ANSWER: A

13. Which Regiment Has Motto: "Veer Bhogya Vasundhara"?

- A. RAJPUTANA RIFLES
- B. RAJPUT REGIMENT
- C. DOGRA REGIMENT
- D. SIKH REGIMENT

ANSWER: A

14. ICMF Stands For

- A. Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility
- B. Integrated Cry Engine Manufacturing Facility
- C. Integrated Cryogenic Engine Make Facility
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

15. "Bolo Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj ki jai" Is The War Cry Of

- A. Maratha Light Infantry Regiment
- B. Grenadiers
- C. Punjab Regiment
- D. Parachute Regiment

ANSWER: A

16. Rabat Is The Capital Of

- A. Morocco
- B. Montenegro
- C. Monaco
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

17. "Without Fear or Favour" Book Written By

- A. R K Narayan
- B. Khushwant Singh
- C. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: C

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

- A. GARUDA SHAKTI
- B. SLINEX
- C. SAMPRITI
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: C

19. __Is The Legal Branch Of The Indian Army.

- A. Army Court
- B. Supreme Court
- C. Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Department
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

20. Exercises B/w India And Kyrgyzstan Is Called:

- A. KHANJAR
- B. SLINEX
- C. NOMADIC ELEPHANT
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: A