

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 12 February 2024

### 8 Indian Ex-Navy Veterans Released By Qatar

- Of the eight former Navy officers, seven have already returned to India, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) informed through an official statement on Monday.
- The Union government released an official statement welcoming the decision to set the veteran officers free, saying, "The Government of India welcomes the release of eight Indian nationals working for the Dahra Global company who were detained in Qatar. Seven out of the eight of them have returned to India. We appreciate the decision by the Amir of the State of Qatar to enable the release and home-coming of these nationals."
- The eight Indian nationals were imprisoned in Qatar since October 2022 and were accused of allegedly spying on a submarine programme. The retired naval personnel were sentenced to death by a Qatar court on charges that have not yet been made public officially.
- Earlier, the Qatari Court commuted the death penalty sentence of eight ex-Indian naval officers it had arrested last year in the Dahra Global case, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a press statement. The sentence has now been reduced to jail terms.
- Describing the judgement, the Ministry of External Affairs had said, "We have noted the verdict today of the Court of Appeal of Qatar in the Dahra Global case, in which the sentences have been reduced."



## Indian Navy's Annual Refit Conference

- Indian Navy's Annual Refit Conference 24 (ARC 24) and Annual Infrastructure Conference 24 (AIC 24) were conducted on 08 – 09 Feb 24 at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, under the Chairmanship of VAdm Kiran Deshmukh, Chief of Materiel.
- Refit Plans of Indian Naval Ships & Submarines, augmentation of infrastructure to meet the maintenance requirements of the new ships and submarines being inducted, Materiel Cooperation with Friendly Foreign Countries & digital solutions being implemented in enhancing maintenance were discussed.
- During the AIC, progress of various Technical and Marine Infrastructure projects was reviewed by the Chief of Materiel. He emphasised the need to develop 'Future Ready' repair and support infrastructure while modernising and revitalising the existing infrastructure.



## FDI Worth Rs 5,077 Crore Reported By Firms Operating In Defence Sector

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worth Rs 5,077 crore has been reported by companies operating in the defence sector, the government informed the Lok Sabha.
- Ajay Bhatt said the FDI limit in the defence sector was enhanced in 2020, up to 74 percent through the automatic route for companies seeking new defence industrial licences, and up to 100 percent through the government route wherever it was likely to result in access to modern technology.
- To a separate question, the minister said the Defence Ministry signed a contract with the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd on December 20, 2023, for the procurement of six next-generation offshore patrol vessels for the Indian Coast Guard at a total cost of **Rs 1,614 crore**.



## Army To Rehabilitate Uttarakhand Villages Abandoned Since 1962 Indo-China War

- CDS, General Anil Chauhan, directed Army formations to aid in the rehabilitation of border villages along the LAC in Uttarakhand, specifically targeting Nelang and Jadung near the China border.
- These villages were evacuated by residents during the 1962 war, relocating to safer areas in Uttarkashi and nearby regions.
- The Indian government's initiative to foster vibrant villages along the China border aligns with this effort. Under '**Operation Sadbhavana**', the Indian Army is actively engaged in border area development.
- "The skies are very clear in this area due to zero pollution and the altitude of 13,000 feet. Stargazing can be a popular activity here and we are trying to promote this as a tourism activity here," an Army official said.
- Attempts are also underway to promote the Jadh festival in Jadh village, with plans to assist in constructing local temples.

- Once the commercial activities begin in the area, the villages accessible from the renowned tourist destination of Harsil can be transformed into sought-after destinations for bikers and drivers.
- The officials feel that the Jadung village should be developed on priority followed by the Nelang village as it involves relocating military infrastructure to advance positions, contributing to the overall forward development of the area.



## IAF Inks Contract With Bharat Electronics

- The IAF has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics for the procurement of Light Weight Man Portable modern communication sets. Bharat Electronics is involved in the business of aerospace and defence manufacturing.
- These indigenous software-designed radios (SDR) technology-based sets will not only boost the IAF's communication network but also further the government's push on Atmanirbhar Bharat for defence indigenisation.
- The contract will also give a push to the company's order book which stood at Rs 76,217 crore as of January 1.
- The company also released its Q3 earnings two weeks ago which saw its net profit rise 40 percent on year to Rs 859.6 crore as against last year's Rs 613 crore.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which country held discussions with India to explore new avenues for bilateral defence & strategic cooperation?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Oman
- C. Egypt
- D. United Arab Emirates

**ANSWER: A**

2. Which country's border is India planning to fence for enhanced security?

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

**ANSWER: C**

3. Which air exercise conducted by India, France, and the UAE over the Arabian Sea?

- A. Eagle Strike
- B. Aero Falcon
- C. Blue Thunder

D. Desert Knight

**ANSWER: D**

**4. Which organization signed a deal with the Indian government for the acquisition of 14 FPVs for the ICG?**

- A. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- B. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- C. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- D. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

**ANSWER: A**

**5. Marine Engineering Training Establishment of the Indian Navy located at**

- A. Noida
- B. Kochi
- C. Pune
- D. Wayanad

**ANSWER: C**

**6. RIMPAC Stands For**

- A. Rim of the Pacific Exercise
- B. Rim of the Perfect Exercise
- C. Rim of the Pacific Economy
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**7. Recently IAF celebrates 60 years of Glorious Service Of**

- A. INS Hansa
- B. INS Parundu
- C. Chetak
- D. Dhruv

**ANSWER: C**

**8. INS Ranjit Is A**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Which Country Is Not The Member Of G-7?**

- A. Germany
- B. France
- C. Russia
- D. USA

**ANSWER: A**

**10. Berlin Is The Capital Of**

- A. France
- B. Qatar
- C. Germany
- D. Maldives

**ANSWER: C**

**11. "Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings in the BCCI" Book Is Written By**

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Sitaram Yechuri
- C. Vinod Rai
- D. Anurag Thakur

**ANSWER: C**

**12. Where Is The Hq Of The Southern Western Command of The Indian Army?**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**13. Sea Dragon Exercise Hosted By**

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**14. India Purchased C 130 J from**

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**15. Ex KHANJAR Conducted B/W India &**

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. Kazakhstan
- D. Kyrgyzstan

**ANSWER: D**

**16. OPEC Hq Is In**

- A. Vienna
- B. New York
- C. Chennai
- D. Abu Dhabi

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Gangtok Is The Capital Of**

- A. Sikkim
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Telangana
- D. Tripura

**ANSWER: A**

**18. What Is The Full Form Of JCB?**

- A. Joseph Cyril Bamford
- B. Joseph Cyrus Bamford
- C. Joseph Cyril Bofors
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Lt Gen. Rank Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of IAF?**

- A. Vice Admiral
- B. Air Commodore
- C. Commodore



D. Air Marshal  
**ANSWER: D**

**20. Which Edition Of Varuna Naval Ex Conducted In 2023?**

- A. 15th
- B. 19th
- C. 21st
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

