

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Navy clears deal for 31 Predator Drones from US

- The Navy has reached a significant milestone in enhancing its capabilities, as Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar announced the clearance of a crucial deal to procure 31 Predator drones from the United States. The decision was made by the Defence Acquisition Council and sets the stage for the signing of the contract in the near future.
- Admiral Kumar expressed optimism about the progress of the deal, stating, "We are the lead servers who are steering it. The letter of request has been cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council and the letter of request has gone to the US government. They have given us a draft letter of availability. Now the final one will come. It has to be placed before the (the US) Congressional committee thereafter it will come."
- The acquisition of these drones is expected to significantly bolster India's surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, particularly in the maritime domain. The contract, valued at around USD 4 billion, includes provisions for weapons and other equipment necessary for operational deployment.



IAF Conducts 'Exercise - Vayu Shakti-24'

- Pokhran range near Jaisalmer reverberated with thunderous explosions and applause, on 17 February 2024, as the IAF showcased its offensive capabilities

through an enthralling and formidable display of its firepower. Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

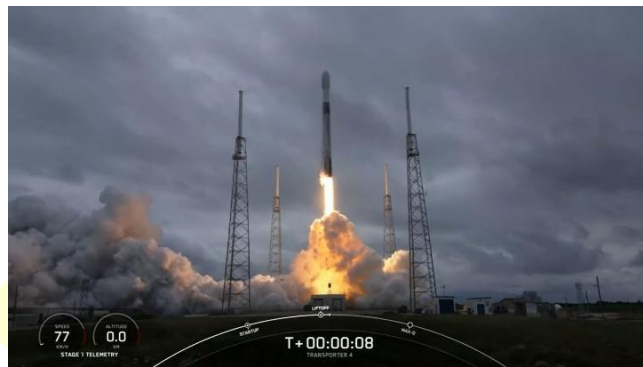
- In keeping with this year's theme of the Exercise, 'Lightning Strike from the Sky', over 120 aircraft displayed the IAF's offensive capabilities by day as well as by night. Fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force including the Rafale, Su-30 MKI, MiG-29, Mirage-2000, Tejas and Hawk.



India's First Spy Satellite Made By Local Private Player

- India's first military grade spy satellite manufactured by the domestic private sector is ready and has been shipped for launch on a SpaceX rocket. Work is also in progress on a ground station that will control the asset and process sub-metre resolution imagery from it.

- Space Exploration Technologies Corp. commonly referred to as SpaceX, is an American spacecraft manufacturer, launch service provider, defense contractor and satellite communications company headquartered in Hawthorne, California. The company was founded in 2002 by Elon Musk with the goal of reducing space transportation costs and ultimately developing a sustainable colony on Mars.
- India is aiming to launch 50 satellites in the next five years for geo-intelligence gathering which will include the creation of a layer of satellites in different orbits with a capacity to track the movement of troops and image thousands of kilometers of area, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman S Somanath said.



US Threatens To Veto New Gaza Ceasefire Resolution At UNSC

- The United States on Saturday warned of exercising its veto power at the UN Security Council against a resolution calling for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza.
- The US Ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield warned that if the resolution proposed by Algeria, calling for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, were to come to a vote at the UN Security Council, Washington would exercise its veto power.
- The United Nations Security Council is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and is charged with ensuring international peace and security, recommending the admission of new UN members to the General Assembly, and approving any changes to the UN Charter.
- The Security Council consists of fifteen members, of which five are permanent: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These were the great powers that were the victors of World War II (or their successor states). Permanent members can veto (block) any substantive Security Council

resolution, including those on the admission of new member states to the United Nations or nominees for the office of Secretary-General.

- This veto right does not carry over into any General Assembly or emergency special sessions of the General Assembly matters or votes. The other ten members are elected on a regional basis for a term of two years. The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members.



US Forces Conducted Five New Strikes On Houthi Weapons Systems

- US forces in the Red Sea have successfully conducted "five self-defense strikes" to foil attacks by land and sea from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen, the American military said.
- The strikes occurred between 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm Saturday Sanaa time (1200 and 1700 GMT), the US Central Command said, and are part of a series of actions taken by the United States and its allies against the Huthis, aimed at halting the Iran-backed rebels' repeated attacks on Red Sea shipping lanes.
- "CENTCOM identified the anti-ship cruise missiles, unmanned underwater vessel, and the unmanned surface vessel in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen and determined they presented an imminent threat to U.S. Navy ships and merchant vessels in the region," it said, adding that it struck the five to "make international waters safer."



Indian Navy To Carry Out Major Twin Aircraft Carrier Operations

- The Indian Navy is going to carry out major operations involving the fleets of both of its aircraft carriers off the west coast in the next ten days, Admiral R Hari Kumar said.
- In an exclusive interaction with ANI, he said both aircraft carriers, including the INS Vikramaditya and made-in-India INS Vikrant, would be present in Vishakhapatnam during the 'Exercise Milan' but the twin carrier operations would be seen only after 10 days.
- "Both the carriers are going to be there for Exercise Milan. However, the operationalisation of the carriers, the integration to the fleet and participation of the fleet is going to happen in ten days," the Navy chief said.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. During the 'Exercise Milan', where were both INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant planned to be present?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Chennai
- C. Vishakhapatnam
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: C

2. Who was the Chief Guest at the IAF's showcase of offensive capabilities near Jaisalmer on 17 Feb 2024?

- A. General Anil Chauhan
- B. President Droupadi Murmu
- C. Admiral Karambir Singh
- D. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

ANSWER: A

3. Which Exercise Isn't Conducted B/W India & USA?

- A. Yudh Abhyas
- B. Vajra Prahar
- C. Sangam
- D. Desert Eagle

ANSWER: D

4. The Capital Of Turkmenistan Is

- A. Ashgabat
- B. Doha
- C. Tehran
- D. Moscow

ANSWER: A

5. Hq Of NITI Aayog Is In

- A. Mumbai
- B. Chennai

- C. Noida
 - D. New Delhi
- ANSWER: D**

6. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Udan Akademi

- A. Amethi
 - B. Chennai
 - C. Jammu
 - D. Jalandhar
- ANSWER: A**

7. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Hq Is At

- A. Vienna, Austria
 - B. Washington, DC, USA
 - C. Geneva, Switzerland
 - D. Rome, Italy
- ANSWER: C**

8. War Cry Of Mechanised Infantry Regiment Is

- A. Durga Mata K Jai
 - B. Raja Ram Chandra K Jai
 - C. Bolo Bharat Mata Ki Jai
 - D. Bajrang Bali K Jai
- ANSWER: C**

9. Motto Of the Mechanised Infantry Regiment Is

- A. Service Before Self
 - B. Warrior
 - C. Always Brave
 - D. Valour & Faith
- ANSWER: D**

10. Dornier 228 Is A

- A. Submarine
 - B. Missile
 - C. Utility Aircraft
 - D. None of the above
- ANSWER: C**

11. Which Nation Has to Give the Largest Funding To UN Peacekeeping Force?

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

ANSWER: B

12. NASSCOM Stands For

- A. National Association of Software and Servant Companies
- B. National Association of Sewak and Service Companies
- C. National Associate of Software and Service Companies
- D. National Association of Software and Service Companies

ANSWER: D

13. Corps of Military Police (CMP) Centre and School Is At

- A. Imphal
- B. Pachmarhi
- C. Chennai
- D. Bangalore

ANSWER: D

14. Army School of Physical Training Is At

- A. Pune
- B. Pachmarhi
- C. Chennai
- D. Bangalore

ANSWER: A

15. Army Airborne Training School Is At

- A. Pune
- B. Agra
- C. Chennai
- D. Noida

ANSWER: B

16. Where Is The Hq Of The Eastern Command of The Indian Army?

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam

- C. Kolkata
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: C

17. Joint Exercises B/w India And Indonesia Is Called:

- A. Garuda Shakti
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: A

18. BSF Was Formed On

- A. 1 December 1965
- B. 10 December 1975
- C. 11 December 1985
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

19. Operation Pawan Was Conducted In

- A. 1978
- B. 1987
- C. 1998
- D. 1980

ANSWER: B

20. Hq of PARA SF Is At

- A. Chennai
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Nagpur
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: B