

Daily Defence Current Affairs

12 March 2024

DRDO Successfully Conducts Mission Divyastra

- DRDO conducted first successful flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with **Multiple Independently Targetable Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV)** technology. The flight test **named Mission Divyastra** was carried out from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island** in Odisha.
- Various Telemetry and radar stations tracked and monitored multiple re-entry vehicles. The Mission accomplished the designed parameters.
- India's nuclear doctrine, promulgated in 2003, commits to a "no first use" posture, with weapons to be used only in retaliation against a nuclear attack on Indian territory or Indian forces. In a stand that reflects the capabilities India has built over the years, the doctrine states nuclear retaliation to a first strike will be massive and designed to inflict unacceptable damage.
- There was no official word on how many warheads the MIRV version of Agni-5 can carry, though military scientists tracking the project pegged the number at four to five. People familiar with the matter said the warheads can be propelled independently with their targets 200-500 km apart.



Launch Of 25t Bollard Pull Tug, Baljeet

- 25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug, **Baljeet** was launched by Cmde Rajat Nagar, WPS (Mbi) on 10 Mar 24 at **M/s Shoft Shipyard Pvt Ltd**, Bharuch, Gujarat. This Tug is a proud flag bearer of “Make in India” initiative of Govt of India.
- 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 manoeuvring in confined waters.



India Remains World’s Largest Arms Importer: SIPRI

- India remains the world's top arms importer and its imports increased by 4.7 per cent between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023, Swedish think tank SIPRI said in a new

report on Monday. Russia continued as India's main arms supplier, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said.

- Adding around 55 percent of arms imports by European states in 2019-23 were supplied by the US, up from 35 percent in 2014-18.
- "India was the world's top arms importer. Its arms imports increased by 4.7 per cent between 2014-18 and 2019-23," the think-tank said in a statement.
- "Although Russia remained India's main arms supplier (accounting for 36 per cent of its arms imports), this was the first five-year period since 1960-64 when deliveries from Russia (or the Soviet Union before 1991) made up less than half of India's arms imports," it said.
- According to the report, Pakistan significantly increased its arms imports (43 percent). Pakistan was the fifth largest arms importer in 2019-23 and China became even more dominant as its main supplier, providing 82 per cent of its arms imports, it said.
- Arms imports by two of China's East Asian neighbours increased, Japan's by 155 per cent and South Korea's by 6.5 percent, it said.
- China's own arms imports shrank by 44 percent, mainly as a result of substituting imported arms -- most of which came from Russia, with locally produced systems.

The logo for SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) features the word "sipri" in a white, lowercase, serif font, centered on a solid red rectangular background. A thin white horizontal line is positioned below the letters.

Exercise 'Bharat Shakti'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will witness 'Bharat Shakti', a synergised demonstration of indigenous defence capabilities in the form of a tri-services live fire and manoeuvre exercise, in Rajasthan's Pokhran on March 12. Modi will also visit Gujarat on Tuesday to launch multiple development projects, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement on Sunday.

- He will also flag off 10 new Vande Bharat trains between Ahmedabad-Mumbai Central, Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam, Mysuru-Dr MGR Central (Chennai), Patna- Lucknow, New Jalpaiguri-Patna, Puri-Visakhapatnam, Lucknow-Dehradun, Kalaburagi- Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru, Ranchi-Varanasi, and Khajuraho-Delhi (Nizamuddin).
- The 'Bharat Shakti' will have on display an array of indigenous weapon systems and platforms as a demonstration of the prowess of the country, premised on the nation's self-reliance initiative, the statement said.



Japan Prepares To Export Communication Antennas To India

- Japan is preparing to export communication antennas to India for use on warships, the Nikkei business daily reported on Saturday.
- The plan is to export "Unicorn," a communications antenna jointly developed by NEC, Yokohama Rubber and other Japanese firms, the report said.
- The antenna deal would expand Japan-India security relations to defense equipment, which in turn would likely strengthen deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Japan hopes the deal will also lead to India decreasing its heavy reliance on Russia for defense equipment.
- The UNICORN is deployed on Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force FFM escort vessel and is known for its stealth design in which several antennas are housed in a horn-shaped structure. It enables the SDF to detect the movement of missiles and drones with its ability to sense radio waves from a wide area.

- Under Japanese law, it can be difficult to export defense equipment that could be used as a lethal weapon. The UNICORN would not violate the law as it is a communication tool.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What was the objective of the DRDO's Mission Divyastra?

- A. To test the Agni-5 missile's accuracy
- B. To demonstrate the Multiple Independently Targetable Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology
- C. To launch a new tugboat in Bharuch, Gujarat
- D. To conduct a live fire exercise in Pokhran, Rajasthan

ANSWER: B

2. Where was the 25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug, Baljeet, launched?

- A. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha
- B. Pokhran, Rajasthan
- C. Bharuch, Gujarat
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: C

3. Exercise Bharat Shakti' Will Be Held In

- A. Pokhran
- B. Pune
- C. Chennai
- D. None

ANSWER: A

4. Indian Military Academy Is Located At

- A. Pune
- B. Mumbai
- C. Pune
- D. Nagpur

ANSWER: A

5. Current Raksha Mantri Is

- A. Rajnath Singh
- B. Ajay Bhatt
- C. Smirti Irani
- D. Anurag Thakur

ANSWER: A

6. Aero India Show 2023 Was Held In

- A. Chennai
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Noida
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: B

7. INS Chennai Is A

- A. Missile Destroyer
- B. Submarine
- C. Landing Ship Tank
- D. None

ANSWER: A

8. INS Karmuk Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. Missile Corvette
- C. Submarine
- D. Tank

ANSWER: B

9. R&AW Stands For

- A. Research and Analytical Wing
- B. Raw and Analysis Wing
- C. Research and Analysis Wing
- D. Research and Analysis Wet

ANSWER: C

10. "Sarvatra" (Everywhere) Is The Motto Of

- A. JKRIF
- B. RR
- C. CORPS OF ENGINEERS
- D. Madras Regiment

ANSWER: C

11. Joint Exercises B/w The India And UK Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Konkan Shakti

ANSWER: D

12. Where Is The Hq Of The Southwestern Command of The Indian Army?

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

ANSWER: A

13. Moroni Is The Capital Of

- A. Comoros
- B. Costa Rica
- C. Cuba
- D. Dominica

ANSWER: A

14. "An Introduction to Dreamland" Book Is Written By

- A. Bhagat Singh
- B. Leo Tolstoy

- C. Jules Verne
- D. Gunnar Myrdal

ANSWER: A

15. Current NSA Of India Is

- A. S Jaishankar
- B. Ajit Doval
- C. R Hari Kumar
- D. V R Chaudhari

ANSWER: B

16. Ex 'AUSINDEX' conducted b/w India &

- A. Angola
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. Australia

ANSWER: D

17. Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (India) Is

- A. Satish Namdeo Ghormade
- B. R Hari Kumar
- C. Karambir Lamba
- D. Sunil Singh

ANSWER: A

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

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Tiger Triumph

ANSWER: D

19. Where Is The Hq Of The Eastern Command of The IAF?

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

ANSWER: C

20. Joint Exercises B/w The India And Russia Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Tiger Triumph

ANSWER: C

