

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Chabahar: A Step Towards Connectivity

- India on Monday signed a 10-year contract to operate the strategic Iranian port of Chabahar that will help it expand trade with Central Asia.
- Chabahar is a deep-water port located in the Sistan-Baluchistan province of Iran. It is the closest Iranian port to India, and is located in the open sea, providing easy and secure access for large cargo ships. The Port has provided the much-needed sea-access to landlocked countries of the region, including Afghanistan, and emerged as a commercial transit hub.
- Under the agreement, India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) committed to investing \$370 million to enhance the port's infrastructure.
- This includes acquiring strategic equipment and expanding the transport facilities, essential for transforming Chabahar into a dynamic regional hub for trade transit.
- Why it matters
- Chabahar port's strategic location on Iran's southeastern coast, close to the Pakistani border, positions it as a pivotal gateway for India's trade ambitions, enabling direct access to Central Asia.
- Located on the Gulf of Oman near the Iran-Pakistan border, it offers India a crucial trade route bypassing Pakistan.
- This is particularly beneficial for trade with landlocked Afghanistan and Central Asian countries like Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan.
- The agreement leverages the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a 7,200-kilometer-long network connecting India, Iran, Russia, and Europe.
- Bypassing Pakistan allows India to diversify its trade routes and reduce dependence on its neighbor.



Senior Nationals Sailing Championship – 2024

- The Yachting Association of India (YAI) Senior Nationals - 2024 is being conducted from 12 – 18 May 24 by the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC), Mumbai supported by Indian Naval Sailing Association (INSA), Naval Headquarters.
- The event is a National ranking event for all Senior Olympic classes. The races are taking place in Mumbai harbour which offers befitting sailing conditions to

the yachtspersons of the country to contest for the top spot in the national ranking. 82 participants from 10 prominent sailing clubs across the country have registered for the event.

- Participants are competing in ILCA 7 (Men), ILCA 6 (Women), 470 (Mixed), 49er (Men), 49er FX (Women), IQFoil (Men), IQFoil (Women), Formula Kite (Men) and Formula Kite (Women) classes. The races are being held in a single series of races commencing 13 May followed by a medal race scheduled on 18 May 24.



IIT Gandhinagar Signs MoU with Adani Defence & Aerospace to advance AI in defence sector

- Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) signed a MoU on Monday with Adani Defence and Aerospace, a subsidiary of Adani Group to collaborate in areas of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and Large Language Models (LLMs) for defence applications.
- The MoU aims to foster collaboration in research, education, and innovation in the areas of AI and ML for defence applications. The collaboration will encompass joint research projects, prototype developments, student projects, and joint workshops.
- The MoU will also help to drive defence technology advancements through collaborative research and development.



'Our troops not capable of operating Dornier aircrafts given by India': Maldives DM

- Days after the withdrawal of Indian soldiers, Maldives Defence Minister Ghassan Maumoon has acknowledged that the country's defence forces are still not capable of operating the three aircraft donated by India.
- This comes a day after Maldives Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer said 76 Indian military personnel in the island nation, were replaced by civilian personnel sent by HAL, which manufactured the helicopter donated by the Indian government.
- Mohamed Muizzu-led Maldives government had formally requested India withdraw its troops from Male. The removal of Indian troops from Maldives was the main election campaign of Muizzu's party.



PRESS RELEASE

Government of India extends budget support to the Government of Maldives

News 13 May 2024

Ref: 2024/PR/103

The Government of India has provided a budget support of USD 50 million to the Maldives today. The support was in the form of a rollover of USD 50 million Treasury Bill, for an additional year, through the State Bank of India, Male', from 13 May 2024.

Government of India's decision to rollover the T-Bill came following a request to that effect made by Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer to India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, during the official bilateral visit to India from 8-10 May 2024.

The Government of Maldives is highly appreciative of the generous support that Government of India has been providing to the Maldives in the form of budgetary support. Large number of infrastructural developmental projects and High Impact Community Developmental projects are underway with the assistance from the Government of India, which consists of a notable part as grant assistance.

The Government of Maldives looks forward in continuing this collaborative partnership for the mutual benefit and prosperity of their people.



Vladimir Putin Removes Sergei Shoigu From Russian Defence Ministry

- The 68-year-old had been in the role since 2012 and will be replaced by Deputy Prime Minister Andrei Belousov, an economist with little military experience. **Mr. Shoigu** is to be appointed secretary of **Russia's Security Council**. The Kremlin said the defence ministry needed to stay "innovative".
- Reshuffles in Russia don't happen very often, so this is a big moment at the top of Russian politics. The appointment of **Mr. Belousov** as defence minister will come as a surprise to many, given his previous experience.
- But analysts suggest President Putin is seeking to align the Russian economy more closely with the war effort.
- The decision to put an economist in charge of the Ministry of Defence reflects the changing priorities of the Kremlin and the huge amounts of money the Russian authorities are now pouring into the war in Ukraine - and Russia's need to boost efficiency in the armed forces.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who is replacing Sergei Shoigu as the defence minister of Russia?

- A. Vladimir Putin
- B. Andrei Belousov
- C. Dmitry Patrushev
- D. Denis Manturov

ANSWER: B

2. Which areas of collaboration are mentioned in the MoU b/w IIT Gandhinagar and Adani Defence and Aerospace?

- A. Healthcare technologies
- B. Renewable energy
- C. Defence applications with AI, ML, and LLMs
- D. Agriculture advancements

ANSWER: C

3. Who is conducting the Yachting Association of India (YAI) Senior Nationals - 2024?

- A. Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC), Mumbai
- B. Adani Defence and Aerospace
- C. Indian Naval Sailing Association (INSA)
- D. Naval Headquarters

ANSWER: A

4. What is the purpose of India signing a 10-year contract with Iran regarding Chabahar port?

- A. To operate a new airport in Iran
- B. To establish a new military base
- C. To expand trade with Central Asia
- D. To conduct joint naval exercises

ANSWER: C

5. What does SCO stand for?

- A. Shanghai Cooperative Organization
- B. Shanghai Coordination Organization
- C. Shanghai Collaboration Organization
- D. Shanghai Coalition Organization

ANSWER: A

6. Which country is not a founding member of the SCO?

- A. Russia
- B. China
- C. India
- D. Kazakhstan

ANSWER: C

7. The Douglas C-47 Skytrain or Dakota Is A

- A. UAV
- B. Military Transport Aircraft
- C. Fighter Aircraft
- D. None

ANSWER: B

8. Defence Industrial Corridor (DICs) Is/Are Located In

- A. UP
- B. T.N
- C. M.H
- D. Both A & B

ANSWER: D

9. Solomon Islands Is Located On

- A. Indian Ocean
- B. Pacific Ocean
- C. Arctic Ocean
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

10. Saab AB Is An Aerospace Company of

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. China

ANSWER: B

11. C-130J Super Hercules Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Transport Aircraft

ANSWER: D

12. "Secure Application for Internet (SAI)" Has Been Developed By

- A. IAF**
- B. Indian Army
- C. ICG
- D. NSG

ANSWER: B

13. Joint Exercises B/w The India And Nepal Is Called:

- A. Surya Kiran
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: A

14. Hq Of Mazagaon Dockyard Limited Is In

- A. New Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Chennai

D. Kolkata

ANSWER: B

15. "Battle Ready for 21st Century" Book Is Written By

A. Shashi Tharoor

B. Geetanjali Shree's

C. Richa Mishra

D. Lt Gen AK Singh and Brig. Narendra Kumar

ANSWER: D

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

A. Kochi

B. Vishakhapatnam

C. Pune

D. Mumbai

ANSWER: B

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

A. Surya Kiran

B. Vajra Prahar

C. Yudha Abhyas

D. Both B & C

ANSWER: D

18. In IAF Flights are sub-divisions of squadrons, commanded by a__.

A. Squadron Leader

B. Flying Officer

C. Air Marshal

D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

19. DRDO Lakshya Is A

A. Fighter Jet

B. Ship

C. Tank

D. UAV

ANSWER: D

20. Exercise Samudra Shakti Conducted B/w Indonesia &

- A. India
- B. Nepal
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Bhutan

ANSWER: A

