

Daily Defence Current Affairs

26 June 2024

Landmark 350th iDEX Contract Inked

- Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Defence, signed the landmark 350th contract in New Delhi on June 25, 2024. The contract was inked with Space Pixxel Technologies Pvt Ltd for the design and development of a 'Miniaturised satellite capable of carrying Electro-Optical, Infrared, Synthetic Aperture Radar, and Hyperspectral payloads up to 150 kgs'.
- This challenge is being led by the Indian Air Force. The 150th iDEX contract was signed in December 2022, and within a span of 18 months, the 350th contract has been signed.
- iDEX, the recipient of the esteemed Prime Minister Award for Public Policy in Innovation Category in 2021, has emerged as a game-changer in the defence ecosystem.
- Established by the DIO under Department of Defence Production, iDEX has launched 11 editions of the Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC), and recently unveiled the Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies.

IAF Concludes 3rd Warfare and Aerospace Strategy Program with Capstone Seminar

- The Indian Air Force conducted a capstone seminar marking the culmination of the No 3 Warfare and Aerospace Strategy Program (WASP) at the Air Force Auditorium in New Delhi.
- The seminar with the theme "**India's Strategic Culture and Imperative for Contemporary National Security**" was conducted under the aegis of the College of Air Warfare and Centre for Air Power Studies.

- WASP is a strategic education programme of 15 weeks duration which was started in 2022 to provide the participants with a deep understanding of geopolitics, grand strategy and Comprehensive National Power.
- The broader aim is to nurture critical thinkers who can blend cross-domain knowledge to generate policy-driving ideas at the strategic level.



Private Defence Companies Revenue Will Grow By 20 percent in FY25: CRISIL Ratings

- The revenue of private defence companies is set to grow by 20 per cent during the current financial year 2024-25, according to a report by CRISIL Ratings.
- The report stated that the revenue of the 25 private aerospace and defence companies will surge by 20 percent to approximately Rs 13,500 crore during the current fiscal year. The surge is propelled by higher government spending and concerted efforts by the government to encourage private participation in the defence sector.
- India's defence sector is generally dominated by the public sector; however, the revenue share of private players has been on the rise recently. The liberalisation of defence equipment manufacturing by the government and increasing transparency in bidding guidelines have helped private entities secure more orders in domestic and overseas markets.



Pakistan's Defence Minister Addresses 'Minority Safety' Issue, Calls It A 'Global Embarrassment'

- Pakistan defence minister Khawaja Asif raised concerns regarding “minority safety” in the country during a national assembly session, news agency ANI reported on Monday. He said that minorities in the nation are “facing targeted violence in the name of religion.”
- “Every day, minorities are being killed. They are not safe under the guise of Islam. I want to address the issue of minority safety, but the opposition is blocking my efforts. Pakistan is facing global embarrassment,” Khawaja Asif.
- Though predominantly Muslim, at around 95 per cent of the population, Pakistan nevertheless includes a wide variety of religious minorities, reflecting its long and complex history. Hindus (1.9 per cent) and Christians (1.6 per cent) make up the largest minorities, but there are also many smaller religious groups such as Bahá’i, Buddhists, Kalasha, Parsis, Sikhs and Zikris.
- Furthermore, between 10 and 25 per cent of the Muslim population are Shi’a – a sect of Islam that, while fully recognized by law, does not in practice enjoy the same status and privileges as the Sunni majority. Even more marginalized, however, are the country’s Ahmadis: while their exact numbers are unknown, they include hundreds of thousands and possibly millions of Pakistanis who,

while identifying as Muslims, have for decades been designated 'non-Muslims' in the Constitution.

- Since independence, this diversity has been threatened by the rise of a highly exclusionary nationalism, which has favoured a narrow understanding of Islam. This has had serious implications for Pakistan's religious minorities who, despite constitutional guarantees and international commitments, have found themselves in a situation where their rights to freely practise their religion are highly circumscribed.



Israel To Roll Out Plan To Replace Hamas In Northern Gaza

- Jerusalem will "soon" roll out a plan to replace Hamas governance in northern Gaza, Israeli National Security Advisor Tzachi Hanegbi said on Tuesday.
- Speaking at Reichman University's annual Herzliya Conference, Hanegbi said that the collapse of Hamas's military ability to rule will open opportunities "for countries that want to see a governing alternative to Hamas in Gaza, with local leadership in Gaza, to join this process."
- He explained that Gaza's new leadership will include Israel's Abraham Accords partners, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations, while the Israeli military continues "cleansing the area" of Hamas's presence.
- The US has pressed Israeli officials to clarify a vision for Gaza's governance after the war. The Biden administration opposes Israel occupying Gaza or allowing the Strip to descend into chaos. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stressed that Israel's three war aims are the destruction of Hamas's military and governing capabilities, the return of all hostages, and ensuring that Gaza no longer poses a threat to Israel.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. According to a report by CRISIL Ratings, by what percentage is the revenue of private defence companies expected to grow during the financial year 2024-25?
 - A. 10%
 - B. 15%
 - C. 20%
 - D. 25%

ANSWER: C

2. What event did the Indian Air Force conduct at the Air Force Auditorium in New Delhi?
 - A. Launch of a new fighter jet
 - B. Graduation ceremony of new cadets

- C. Capstone seminar marking the culmination of the No 3 Warfare and Aerospace Strategy Program (WASP)
- D. Joint military exercise with foreign air forces

ANSWER: C

3. Which DRDO establishment successfully developed the lightest Bullet Proof Jacket in the country?

- A. Defence Research and Development Establishment
- B. Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory
- C. Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment
- D. Defence Avionics Research Establishment

ANSWER: C

4. When was the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) founded?

- A. 2001
- B. 2017
- C. 2023
- D. 2007

ANSWER: A

5. When did Iran become a new permanent member of the SCO?

- A. 2017
- B. 2001
- C. 2023
- D. 2007

ANSWER: C

6. MALABAR Exercise Was Initiated In Which Year

- A. 1991
- B. 1992
- C. 1993
- D. 1994

ANSWER: B

7. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Comes Under

- A. MOD

- B. MHA
- C. MEA
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

8. Hambantota Port Is In

- A. Indonesia
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. India
- D. China

ANSWER: B

9. The Indian Government Plans To Construct A 2,500-metre-long Airstrip On Minicoy Island In

- A. Goa
- B. Mumbai
- C. Lakshadweep
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: C

10. Pakyong Airport is located in -

- A. Sikkim
- B. Assam
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Nagaland

ANSWER: A

11. Which port is also known as the New Mangalore Port?

- A. Mormugao Port
- B. Panambur Port
- C. Kandla Port
- D. Tuticorin Port

ANSWER: B

12. Port Blair Is Located On Which Island?

- A.** The Little Andaman
- B.** The Great Nicobar
- C.** The South Andaman
- D.** The North Andaman

ANSWER: C

13. Author Of The Book 'Kerala: God's Own Country'

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Jeet Thayil
- C. Sudha Murthy
- D. Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai

ANSWER: A

14. AUSINDEX Ex Conducts B/W

- A. India & Indonesia
- B. India & Australia
- C. India & Sri Lanka
- D. India & Thailand

ANSWER: B

15. "Poverty and Un-British Rule in India" Is Written By

- A. Mahadevi Verma
- B. Premchand
- C. Dadabhai Naoroji
- D. Ratan Tata

ANSWER: C

16. Havana Is The Capital Of

- A. Cuba
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Cyprus

ANSWER: A

17. Who Was The Prime Minister Of India During Indo-PAK War In 1965?

- A. Jawaharlal Nehru
- B. Indira Gandhi
- C. Lal Bahadur Shastri
- D. Rajiv Gandhi

ANSWER: C

18. Who Was The PM Of India During The Indo-Pak War In 1999?

- A. Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- B. Indira Gandhi
- C. Lal Bahadur Shastri
- D. Rajiv Gandhi

ANSWER: A

19. Ex 'Jal Prahar' Conducted In

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

ANSWER: D

20. Current DG of The ICG Is

- A. VS Pathania
- B. Rakesh Pal
- C. R Hari Kumar
- D. None

ANSWER: B