

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 20 July 2024

### RSNF Trainees Successfully Complete Training

- 76 trainees from King Fahd Naval Academy of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) completed their Afloat Training Course at First Training Squadron (1TS) of the Indian Navy on 18 Jul 24.
- The three weeks training at Kochi comprised harbour as well as a sea phase. The harbour phase focussed largely on simulator-based training on navigational, firefighting and damage control aspects.
- The conduct of two successive training courses (2023 and this year) with enhanced participation bears testimony to growing maritime partnership between the two Navies.
- India and Saudi Arabia enjoy cordial and friendly relations reflecting the centuries old economic and socio-cultural ties. Their diplomatic relations were established in 1947.
- India is the second largest trade partner of Saudi Arabia whereas Saudi Arabia is the fourth largest trading partner of India. During FY23 bilateral trade was valued at US\$ 52.76 billion. During this period, India's imports from Saudi Arabia grew by 23.47% to reach US\$ 42.03 billion and exports to Saudi Arabia were worth US\$ 10.72 billion registering an increase of 22.48% on yoy basis. Total trade with Saudi Arabia accounted for 4.53% of India's total trade in FY 2022-23.
- Energy cooperation forms a central pillar of the Indo-Saudi bilateral ties. Saudi Arabia is a key partner for India for ensuring energy security. It remained India's third largest Crude and Petroleum products sourcing destination for FY 2022-23. India Imported 39.5 MMT of crude oil from Saudi Arabia, in FY 2022-23, accounting for 16.7 % of its total crude imports. Additionally, India's LPG imports from Saudi Arabia stood at 7.85 MMT and accounted for 11.2% of its total petroleum product imports in FY 2022-23.

- As on date, two editions of the bilateral naval exercise 'Al Mohed Al Hindi' have been concluded. Additionally, both sides are also having close cooperation in the domain of defence industries and capacity building. The first ever India-Saudi Joint Land Force Exercise "EX-SADA TANSEEQ-I" conducted at Field Training Node, Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan from January 29 to February 10, 2024.



## Iran Capable of Producing Fissile Material For Nuclear Weapon

- US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said that Iran's breakout time, the amount of time required to make enough weapons grade material for a nuclear weapon, "is now probably one or two weeks" as Tehran has continued to create its nuclear program.

- Blinken's assessment comes as Iran in recent months has taken steps to boost its production of fissile material. In his remarks at the Aspen Security Forum on Friday, Blinken said, "Where we are now is not in a good place."
- The United States unilaterally withdrew in 2018 from the Iran nuclear deal, which was designed to regulate Iran's atomic activities in exchange for the lifting of international sanctions.
- Speaking at a security forum in Colorado, Blinken blamed the collapse of the nuclear deal for the acceleration in Iran's capabilities.
- "Instead of being at least a year away from having the breakout capacity of producing fissile material for a nuclear weapon, (Iran) is now probably one or two weeks away from doing that," Blinken said.
- He added that Iran had not yet developed a nuclear weapon.
- Iran's acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri told CNN earlier this week that his country remained committed to the deal, known as the JCPOA.
- "We are still a member of JCPOA. America has not yet been able to return to the JCPOA, so the goal we are pursuing is the revival of the 2015 agreement," he said. "We are not looking for a new agreement."



## "Aatmaribharta is what we are riding on...": Air Marshal AP Singh

- Emphasising 'Aatmanirbharta and Aatmanirbhar Bharat', Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal AP Singh on Friday asserted that the weapons that the forces are talking about of the future should be developed and manufactured in India, adding that Aatmaribharta is what we are riding on.
- "We all understand that we, as a nation, face a large number of challenges today. It is from conventional challenges, which are also increasingly becoming more and more aggressive and also unorthodox application of force in the air domain using the sub-conventional weapons that we spoke about," the Air Marshal said.
- "Like they say, there is no permanent enemy or permanent friend. They all have permanent interests. So, Aatmanirbharta and Aatmanirbhar Bharat which we have been talking about are not just buzzwords. ," the Air Marshal said.
- Even in the urban warfare construct that is seen in Israel-Hamas war, the air domain has been used extensively, whether it is utilising those fighter aircraft with precision weapons or the formidable Iron Dome (air defence) system or utilising those low-cost rockets and loiter munitions by Hamas in challenging that very formidable and very costly system itself, he said.
- The VCAS also said that in this highly dense battlespace, "we need to put in place plans to have optimal and innovative utilisation of available resources, and at the same we need to ensure we are improving our systems through upgrade or procurement".





## Amit Shah In High-Level Security Meet

- Even as search operations continue in the Jammu region where security forces are trying to flush out terrorists, back in Delhi Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the new deployment strategy being enforced in Jammu and Kashmir.
- "The Home Minister held discussions over assessments of various forces operating on the ground and how more force is being pumped in the existing security grid," a senior government official told.
- The meeting which lasted for over three hours was attended by heads of security and law enforcement agencies to review the functioning of Multi Agency Centre (MAC) of the Intelligence Bureau, responsible for tackling security challenges in the country.
- The meeting was held at a time when questions are being raised about the kind of intelligence being generated or lack of it in the Jammu region. No agency seems to have a clear picture as to how many terrorists have infiltrated and where have they been hiding for the past few months.
- Now, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman set to present the Union Budget on July 23, all eyes are on the defence allocation, which is expected to maintain its lion's share among various expense heads.



## MEA Says In Touch With 50 Indian Nationals Who Want Discharge From Russian Army

- The Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday that it was in touch with at least 50 Indian nationals who wished to end their employment in the Russian Army, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised the matter with Russian President Vladimir Putin during his recent visit to Moscow.

- "Prime Minister Modi raised this matter with President Putin during his recent visit to Russia. The Russian side have responded positively to our request. Both sides are working for an early discharge of Indian nationals and hopefully they will come back soon," Jaiswal said while addressing a press briefing today.
- Meanwhile, Jaiswal said that both countries just wrapped up the annual summit and as part of the summit a decision was taken that figured in the joint statement as well that the next round of India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission Talks will be held and "we will take forward the bilateral collaboration forward with a robust agenda."



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. How many trainees from King Fahd Naval Academy of the RSNF completed their Afloat Training Course?**

- A. 60
- B. 76
- C. 80
- D. 90

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Which of the following submarines is NOT part of the Shishumar class commissioned under technology transfer from Germany?**

- A. INS Shishumar
- B. INS Shankush
- C. INS Sindhughosh
- D. INS Shankul

**ANSWER: C**

**3. INS 312 Squadron, Also Known As**

- A. Lion
- B. Fire
- C. Albatross
- D. None

**ANSWER: C**

**4. Which Nation Signed A Deal To Acquire The Arrow 3 Hypersonic Missile System From Israel?**

- A. USA
- B. Germany
- C. USA
- D. Peru

**ANSWER: B**

**5. As Per SIPRI Military Expenditure Database Which Country Comes First In Military Expenditure?**

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

**ANSWER: B**

**6. \_\_\_ Is India's 3<sup>rd</sup> Highest Military Decoration Award.**

- A. PVC
- B. MVC
- C. Veer Chakra
- D. Kirti Chakra

**ANSWER: C**

**7. ZA'IR-AL-BAHR Exercise Held B/W India And\_\_\_?**

- A. China
- B. USA
- C. Qatar
- D. Singapore

**ANSWER: C**

**8. The Indian Struggle Book Written By**

- A. Subhas Chandra Bose
- B. Adolf Hitler
- C. Ravindra Nath Tagore
- D. Jawaharlal Nehru

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi Is The GOC In Chief Of**

- A.** Northern Command
- B.** Western Command
- C.** Southern Command
- D.** Central Command

**ANSWER: A**

**10. Wartime Distinguished Service Medal Is**

- A. PVC
- B. MVC
- C. VSM
- D. YSM

**ANSWER: D**

**11. Colonel Rank Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Rank Of Indian Navy Is**

- A. Commander
- B. Captain
- C. Group Captain
- D. Lieutenant

**ANSWER: B**

**12. Maitree Exercise Held B/W India And \_\_\_?**

- A. Thailand
- B. USA
- C. Qatar
- D. Singapore

**ANSWER: A**



**13. Tangail Airdrop Was Done At Which War**

- A. 1948
- B. 1962
- C. 1965
- D. 1971

**ANSWER: D**

**14. War Cry of NAGA REGIMENT**

- A. Bharat Mata ki Jai
- B. Ki ki so so Lhargyalo
- C. Jai Durga Naga
- D. Durga Mata Ki Jai

**ANSWER: C**

**15. Kamov Ka-31 Is A**

- A. Destroyer
- B. Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle
- C. Helicopter
- D. Submachine gun

**ANSWER: C**

**16. High Altitude Warfare School Is At**

- A. Wellington
- B. Gulmarg
- C. Shimla
- D. Dehradun

**ANSWER: B**

**17. War Cry of THE MAHAR REGIMENT**

- A. Bharat Mata ki Jai
- B. Bolo Hindustan Ki Jay
- C. Jai Hind
- D. Durga Mata Ki Jai

**ANSWER: B**

**18. Southwestern Air Command Of IAF Is In**

- A. Prayagraj
- B. Gandhinagar
- C. Shillong

D. New Delhi

**ANSWER: B**

**19. Bagram Air Base Located In**

A. Pakistan

B. Iraq

C. Afghanistan

D. Qatar

**ANSWER: C**

**20. Dassault Aviation Is A Company Of**

A. Thailand

B. USA

C. Qatar

D. France

**ANSWER: D**

