

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Jaishankar In Maldives

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday concluded a crucial visit to Male, assuring the country's top leadership that the Maldives remains an important partner of India in maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region.
- Jaishankar's three-day visit to the Maldives was the first high-level trip from New Delhi after President Mohamed Muizzu, seen as a pro-China leader, assumed office in November last year. India's relationship with the Maldives soon came under severe strain due to the actions of the new government here.
- Jaishankar's visit highlights the importance of the Maldives, India's maritime neighbour, as a key partner in the 'Neighbourhood First' policy and India's Vision 'SAGAR' i.e. **Security and Growth for All in the Region**, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement on Sunday.
- Behind this perceptible change was the fact that Maldives is in dire economic crisis and even communist China cannot bail out Male without quid pro quo. The fact is that Maldives is facing a budgetary gap running into a couple of hundred million USD with India already rolling over a payment of USD 50 million to SBI in May and another USD 50 million due in September. Maldives has to pay some USD one billion to the market in 2026 and the country faces a default.
- Even though Bangladesh is currently going through a political crisis with Islamists targeting Hindu minorities in the name of supporters of the Awami League of ousted PM Sheikh Hasina, the fact is that Dhaka is facing an economic crisis and will have to come to India like Sri Lanka in 2022 for financial support. The same would be the situation of Nepal but its currency is linked with the stable Indian Rupee.



India's Plan For Advanced Fighters

- In a significant boost to India's indigenous fighter aircraft program, 4.5 generation plus LCA Mark 2 fighter jets are slated to commence flights by March 2026, with mass production expected to begin by 2029.
- Furthermore, the mass production of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), a fifth-generation fighter, is anticipated to start by 2035, according to defense officials. These timelines emerged during a high-level meeting presided over by DRDO chairman Dr. Samir V. Kamat and Indian Air Force Deputy Chief Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit.
- The LCA aircraft are scheduled to be powered by American GE engines; LCA Mark 1 and Mark 1A by GE-404 engines, while the LCA Mark 2 will utilize the more advanced GE-414, manufactured in India with indigenous content.

- The Indian government aims to replace the primary fleets, including the Mirage 2000, Jaguar, and MiG-29s, with over 250 LCA Mark 2 planes over the next 10-15 years. Additionally, the Indian Air Force has placed an order for 180 LCA Mark 1A planes. Officials indicated that the production of the LCA Mark-1A is likely to be completed by 2032.



Germany's TKMS Gains Upper Hand In Indian Navy Submarine Contest

- Germany has an upper hand in a high-stakes contest to construct next-generation conventional submarines for an Indian Navy order, with trials completed and the selection set to move to the next stage. It has partnered with MDL for an estimated **₹43,000-crore** contract for six new submarines.
- In the **Rs 60,000 crore project** to build six advanced conventional submarines, government-owned Mazagaon Dockyards Limited (MDL) has got an edge as it has cleared crucial trials in the programme.
- Mumbai-headquartered MDL and Larsen and Toubro are the two contenders in the project with German **ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems** and Spanish Navantia as their respective partners.
- The Indian Navy's long-term submarine acquisition plan was modified post-2014 to have 18 conventional and 6 nuclear attack submarines.

- The next-gen **Project 76** to build six conventional submarines with complete Indian design and construction has also been activated and was on the 100-day agenda of the Defence Ministry.



2 Soldiers, 1 Civilian Killed In Encounter With Terrorists

- Two soldiers and one civilian were killed during a fierce gunfight between terrorists and security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday. Three other soldiers were also injured in a gunfight in the Kokernag forest area.
- In the encounter, Havildar Dipak Kumar Yadav and Lance Naik Praveen Sharma laid down their lives in the line of duty. On the other hand, one of the civilian who got injured on Saturday in a crossfire died in the hospital.
- Operations in the Ahlan Gadole forest area of Kokernag have intensified as additional troops from the 19 Rashtriya Rifles and Special Forces have been mobilised. The operation, taking place at least 15 kilometers inside the dense jungles, has been slowed by heavy rain and poor visibility.



Exercise Udara Shakti 2024 Concludes

- After successful participation in Exercise Udara Shakti 2024 at Malaysia, the IAF contingent returned to India, on 10 Aug 24. The joint air exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Royal Malaysian Air Force from 05 to 09 August 2024 at Kuantan, Malaysia.
- During the exercise, IAF's Su-30MKI fighter jets engaged in air combat missions alongside the RMAF's Su-30MKM fighters, enabling the crew of both air forces to familiarize with each other's operational protocols, thereby enhancing interoperability, commonality and overall effectiveness in Su-30 aircraft operations.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which country collaborated with India in Exercise Udara Shakti 2024?

- A. Singapore
- B. Thailand
- C. Malaysia
- D. Indonesia

ANSWER: C

2. By when are the LCA Mark 2 fighter jets expected to commence flights?

- A. March 2025
- B. March 2026
- C. March 2027
- D. March 2028

ANSWER: B

3. Which country is leading in the contest to construct next-generation conventional submarines for the Indian Navy?

- A. France
- B. Russia
- C. Germany
- D. United States

ANSWER: C

4. Ex 'SURYA KIRAN' Conducted b/w India &

- A. Russia
- B. Oman
- C. Nepal
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: C

5. The Chinook Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: A

6. Which Team Won Durand Cup Championship 2023?

- A. Mohun Bagan
- B. Mumbai City FC
- C. Chennai City
- D. None

ANSWER: A

7. Aerobatic Team Of IAF Is

- A. Surya
- B. Surya Kiran
- C. Kiran
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

8. Sampriti Ex Conducts B/W

- A. India & Indonesia
- B. India & Bangladesh
- C. India & Sri Lanka
- D. India & Russia

ANSWER: B

9. Assistant Commandant Of ICG Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of Indian Army?

- A. Captain
- B. Brigadier
- C. Lieutenant
- D. Major General

ANSWER: C

10. Parachute Regiment Training Centre Is At

- A. Bangalore
- B. New Delhi
- C. Nagpur
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: A

11. Thales Group Is A Company Of Which Nation

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

ANSWER: D

12. Which Country Hosted Multilateral Exercise MILAN 2022?

- A. France
- B. UK
- C. India
- D. Malaysia

ANSWER: C

13. Quito Is The Capital Of

- A. Ecuador
- B. Egypt
- C. UAE
- D. El Salvador

ANSWER: A

14. "Modi @20: Dreams Meeting Delivery" Book Is Written By

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Rajesh Talwar
- C. Venkaiah Naidu
- D. Rasheed Kidwai

ANSWER: C

15. Russia's New Nuclear-capable Intercontinental Missile That Can Strike Any Target In The World Is ____.

- A. Nikita
- B. Mashov
- C. Spike
- D. Sarmat

ANSWER: D

16. What Is The Name Of India's First Indigenously Developed Flying Trainer?

- A. Horn-NG
- B. HANS-NG

- C. HANSA-NG
- D. Hawk-NG

ANSWER: C

17. Sea Dragon Is A

- A. Domestic Ex
- B. Multilateral Ex
- C. Bilateral Ex
- D. None of these

ANSWER: B

18. World's Highest Motorable Road Is In

- A. Sikkim
- B. Ladakh
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Assam

ANSWER: B

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

- A. AJEYA WARRIOR
- B. KONKAN
- C. Indra
- D. Both A&B

ANSWER: D

20. CTBT Treaty Is Related To

- A. Nuclear Test Ban
- B. Dual Use Goods Tech
- C. Spreading Biological Weapons
- D. Both A&B

ANSWER: A