

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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HAL Becomes 14th Maharatna Company

- The central government has upgraded **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** as the **14th Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE)**, the Department of Public Enterprises said.
- The Maharatna status will further enhance its operational autonomy and financial powers with promising future projects and growth. It can now make investments up to 15 % of its net worth in projects and invest up to Rs 5,000 crore in foreign ventures without government approval.
- The other 13 Central Public Sector Enterprises that are classified as Maharatna are
- **NTPC Limited (NTPC), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Coal India Limited (CIL), GAIL India Limited (GAIL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), Power Finance Corporation, Rural Electrification Corporation Limited and Oil India Ltd.**
- HAL is a Department of Defence Production (DoDP) CPSE with an annual turnover of Rs. 28162 crore and net profit of Rs. 7595 crore for FY 2023-24.
- HAL manufactures Engines, Communication equipment, Navigation equipment, Display systems, Hydraulic systems, Electric equipment, etc., required for aircraft and helicopters.



Army Chief Launches 'Agniastra'

- The Army Chief, General Upendra Dwivedi on Friday, officially launched "Agniastra," a portable **multi-target detonation device**, during the Army Commanders Conference in Gangtok.
- This device was developed by **Major Rajprasad RS** from the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers and is seen as a major advancement in both conventional and counter-terrorism operations.
- The device holds "tremendous potential" **for use in room interventions, remote bunker or hideout destruction, and reserve demolitions**. Speaking about its capabilities, they added, "It has tremendous potential in both **conventional and counter-terrorist operations** like room intervention, remote bunker/hideout bursting, and reserve demolition."
- The new system is a **microprocessor-based electronic device** that can operate in both wired and wireless modes with a much-improved range of 2.5 kilometres.



MEA, MoD Watchful as UN Force in Lebanon Comes Under Israel Attack

- The Ministry of External Affairs is in regular consultation with the Ministry of Defence over the welfare of Indian troops deployed in the UNIFIL mission in Lebanon that recently came under Israeli attack.
- The two ministries are constantly monitoring the ground situation while India has aligned itself with a Polish-led joint statement in the UN on peacekeepers in Lebanon.
- Israeli officials say at least 24 Israelis, civilians or members of the security forces, have been killed in attacks carried out by Palestinian militants or in Israeli military operations over the same period in the West Bank.



US To Deploy THAAD Missile Defense System In Israel

- The United States (US) is sending its advanced anti-missile system -- **Terminal High-Altitude Area Defence (THAAD)** battery, to Israel, along with a US military crew to operate it.
- "This is not the first time the US has deployed a THAAD battery to the region. The President directed the military to deploy a THAAD battery to the Middle East last year following the October 7th attacks to defend American troops and interests in the region," he said.
- The United States previously deployed a THAAD battery to Israel in 2019 for training and an integrated air defense exercise, he added.
- Earlier, a large barrage of anti-tank missiles was fired towards Israeli troops in southern Lebanon on Sunday, a statement by the IDF said.
- The Ministry of External Affairs is in regular consultation with the Ministry of Defence over the welfare of Indian troops deployed in the UNIFIL mission in Lebanon that recently came under Israeli attack.
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Middle East | RULES:ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS

U.S. sending additional air defense systems to Middle East, Pentagon says

By Idrees Ali and Phil Stewart

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Palestinians search for casualties at the site of an Israeli strike on a house, in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, October 21, 2023. REUTERS/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa [Purchase Licensing Rights](#)

WASHINGTON, Oct 21 (Reuters) - The U.S. will send a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system and additional Patriot air defense missile system battalions to the Middle East, the Pentagon said on Saturday, in response to recent attacks on U.S. troops in the region.

Bharat To Develop New Missile Testing Range On East Coast

- At a time when the Indian defence researchers are developing a large number of tactical missile systems, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has given approval for setting up a new missiles testing range in Andhra Pradesh.
- The proposal was cleared by the CCS headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week as per which the new missile range will come up in the Nagayalanka area of Andhra Pradesh, government sources told ANI.
- The new missile testing range will be used for test firing of tactical missile systems like the surface to air missile systems, anti tank missiles and various other projects being developed by the R&D Organisation, they said.
- The CCS in its meeting last week gave clearance to major proposals of the armed forces including that of buying 31 Predator drones from the US and two nuclear submarines to be built by the Project ATV for developing strategic submarines for the Indian Navy, they said.



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EXAMS

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of the portable multi-target detonation device recently launched by the Indian Army?
 - A. Agniastra
 - B. Brahmastra
 - C. Pinaka
 - D. Pralay

ANSWER: A

2. Who developed the "Agniakra" device for the Indian Army?

- A. Major Rajprasad RS
- B. General Upendra Dwivedi
- C. Colonel Abhay Sharma
- D. Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan

ANSWER: A

3. Which advanced anti-missile system is the United States sending to Israel?

- A. THAAD
- B. Iron Dome
- C. Patriot
- D. S-400

ANSWER: A

4. Which Indian organization was recently upgraded to a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)?

- A. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- B. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
- C. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- D. Steel Authority of India (SAIL)

ANSWER: C

5. What did the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) recently approve in Andhra Pradesh?

- A. Setting up a new naval base
- B. Establishment of a missile testing range
- C. Construction of a new defense research center
- D. Establishment of a nuclear facility

ANSWER: B

6. In which city did INS Tir and ICGS Veera arrive as part of their Long Range Training Deployment?

- A. Doha
- B. Manama
- C. Muscat
- D. Abu Dhabi

ANSWER: B

7. KHARDUNG LA Is Located At

- A. Leh
- B. Shimla
- C. Dharmshala
- D. J&K

ANSWER: A

8. Minuteman III Is A

- A. ICBM
- B. SRBM
- C. SLBM
- D. MRBM

ANSWER: A

9. Op Sankalp Was Initiated And Implemented By The

- A. IAF
- B. BSF
- C. Indian Navy
- D. ICG

ANSWER: C

10. Which Of The Following Is The Oldest CAPF?

- A. CRPF
- B. BSF
- C. Assam Rifles
- D. BSF

ANSWER: C

11. Prahaar Missile Manufactured By

- A. MDL
- B. BDL
- C. CSL
- D. DRDO

ANSWER: B

12. What Is The Name Given To India's First-ever Satellite And Nuclear-missile Tracking Ship?

- A. INS Tez

- B. INS Parvat
- C. INS Eklavya
- D. INS Dhruv

ANSWER: D

13. INS Kochi Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Tank

ANSWER: A

14. IBSAMAR Trilateral Naval Exercise Held Between India, Brazil And___?

- A. North Korea
- B. Switzerland
- C. Singapore
- D. South Africa

ANSWER: D

15. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) motto is

- A. Always be there
- B. Service for Nation
- C. 24*7
- D. Disaster Service Forever

ANSWER: D

16. Which Honorary Rank Does Sachin Tendulkar Hold?

- A. Lieutenant Colonel
- B. Lieutenant
- C. Major
- D. Group Captain

ANSWER: D

17. The Port Duqm Is In

- A. Yemen
- B. Iran
- C. Iraq
- D. Oman

ANSWER: D

18. Regimental Centre Of THE BRIGADE OF THE

- A. Kamptee, Maharashtra
- B. Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
- C. Delhi Cantonment
- D. Fatehgarh, Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: A

19. Lamitye Exercise Held B/W India And ___?

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

ANSWER: D

20. 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