

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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EAM Jaishankar Arrives In Islamabad For 23rd SCO Summit

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar arrived in Islamabad, Pakistan on Tuesday for the **23rd meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government**.
- The 23rd SCO CHG is all set to kick off on Wednesday in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, with top-notch security measures in place.
- **Belarus has become the 10th member state of the SCO.**
- Before the inclusion of Belarus, it had nine members: **India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.**
- **Afghanistan and Mongolia** hold **Observer Status**.



Foundation Stone of Very Low Frequency Station

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone of a new **Very Low Frequency (VLF) Station** of the Indian Navy at the **Damagundam Reserve Forest site, Pudur Mandal in Vikarabad, Telangana** on October 15, 2024.
- The facility, built at a cost of **Rs 3,200 crore**, will be spread across **2,900 acres**. It will bolster the Indian Navy's operational readiness, ensuring effective command and control capabilities in challenging maritime environments.
- "This VLF station would play an important role in enabling the seamless secure worldwide communication, including most importantly, with our dived submarines, thus ensuring their stealth and enhanced effectiveness. May it stand tall, as a testament to the strength and standing of our nation today, and the unwavering commitment of our Navy to protect and promote our National Maritime Interests - Anytime, Anywhere, Anyhow," the Chief of the Naval Staff said.



India, US Sign Deal Worth Rs 32,000 Crore For Buying 31 Predator Drones

- India and the US on Tuesday signed deals worth **Rs 32,000 crore for buying 31 Predator drones** for the three services and setting up a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul facility for them in the country.
- Last week, the **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)** approved the acquisition of 31 Predator drones. Of these **31 Predator drones**, **15** will go to the **Indian Navy**, while the rest will be divided equally between the **IAF & the Army**.

- WHAT ARE THE FEATURES OF THE MQ-9B DRONES?
- The US had approved the sale of 31 MQ-9B drones to the Indian military at an estimated cost of **\$3.99 billion** in February.
- The key characteristic of the MQ-9B Predator is its whisper-quiet operation. The drone stands out from the rest because of its stealth feature. The drone can fly as close to 250 metres from the ground without the target even having an inkling it is there unless spotted.
- With a maximum speed of **442 km/h**, the drone can soar at an altitude of around **50,000 feet**, higher than that of a commercial airplane.
- The drone's capacity to be sent on extended missions in any kind of weather is another noteworthy feature. The drone has the option to be fitted with air-to-ground missiles in addition to air-to-air missiles.
- The **MQ-9B drone** can fly 2,000 miles without refueling and carry up to **1,700 kg** of cargo, which includes four missiles and about **450 kg of bombs**. The drone's manufacturer, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, claims that it can fly nonstop or hover over targets for up to **35 hours**.



India, Australia Hold 2+2 Secretary Level Talks

- India and Australia held the fourth **2+2 Secretary-level Consultations in New Delhi** on Monday and discussed various issues like political, strategic, defence and security, and regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- The Australia -India relationship was upgraded to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)** in June 2020. The CSP is based on mutual understanding, friendship, and a shared vision for a stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific.
- Australia is one of only three countries with which India holds annual leader-level summits. The PM of both countries interact at international fora, including through the **Quad, G20 and East Asia Summit**.



Taiwan Reports Increased Chinese Military Activity

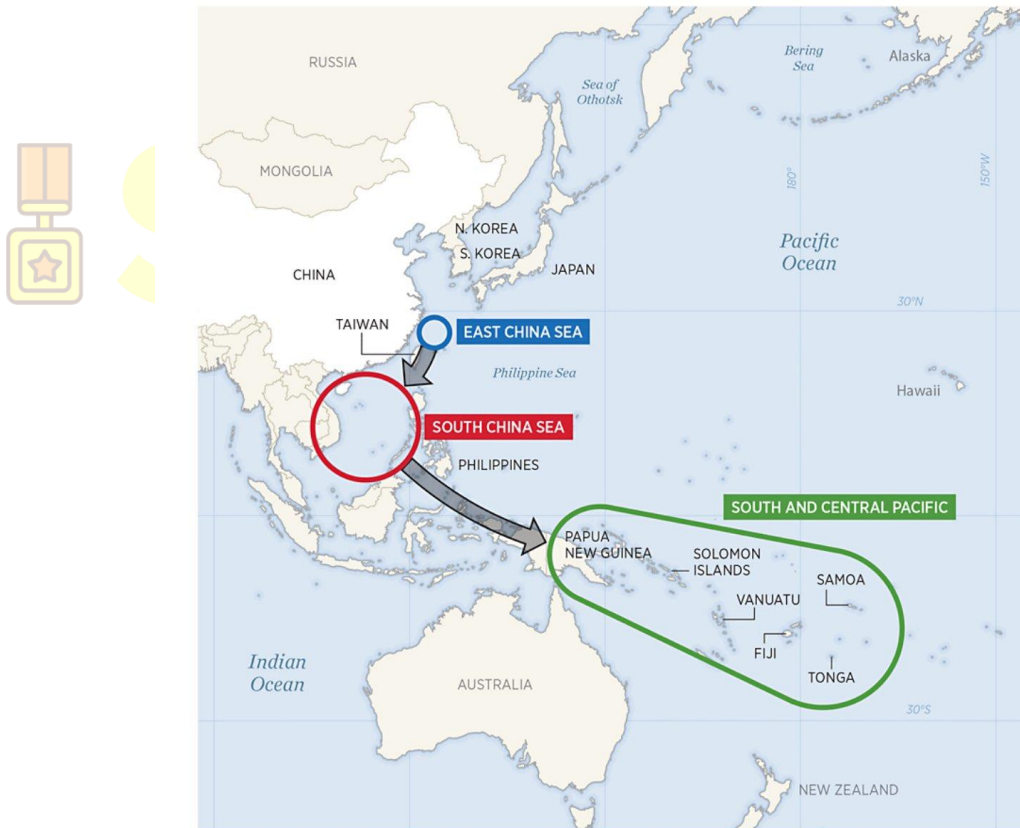
- Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND) has reported increased Chinese military activity near its territory. Taiwan MND said that 153 Chinese military aircraft, 14 naval vessels and 12 official ships were detected operating around Taiwan until 6 am (local time) on Tuesday.
- Of the **153 People's Liberation Army (PLA) aircraft, 111 aircraft** crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait and entered Taiwan's western, southwestern and eastern Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ), according to Taiwan MND's statement.

- Since September 2020, China has intensified its use of **gray zone tactics** by increasing the number of military aircraft and naval vessels operating around Taiwan, Taiwan News reported.
- **Gray zone tactics** are "an effort or series of efforts beyond steady-state deterrence and assurance that attempts to achieve one's security objectives without resort to direct and sizable use of force," the report said.
- Taiwan has been governed independently since 1949. However, China considers Taiwan part of its territory and insists on eventual reunification, by force if necessary.

FIGURE 1

China Employing Familiar “Grey-Zone” Tactics

Since 2008, China has applied “grey-zone” tactics—activities that occur between peace and war—to advance its interests against neighbors. By 2013, the China-Japan relationship had solidified to a point where only conflict could change it, prompting China to shift its focus to the South China Sea. China's actions since 2022 indicate it may be preparing for a new phase of grey-zone strategies in the South and Central Pacific.



SOURCE: Author's research.

NSG 40th Anniversary

- The National Security Guard, commonly known as Black Cats, is a counter-terrorism unit of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It was founded on 16

October 1984, following Operation Blue Star against Sikh militants, to combat terrorist activities and protect states against internal disturbances.

- Founded: 22 September 1986
- Motto: सर्वत्र सर्वोत्तम सुरक्षा (Sanskrit); Best Security Everywhere
- Agency executive: B.Srinivasan,IPS, Director General of NSG
- Annual budget: ₹1,273.19 crore (US\$152.6 million) (2024–25)
- Employees: 10,000 active personnel
- Formed: 16 October 1984; 39 years ago



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which city hosted the 23rd meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government?
 - A. New Delhi
 - B. Islamabad
 - C. Shanghai
 - D. Moscow

ANSWER: B

2. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was established on 15th June 2001 in which city?
 - A. Moscow
 - B. Tashkent
 - C. Shanghai
 - D. Beijing

ANSWER: C

3. Which countries hold Observer Status in the SCO?

- A. Iran and Belarus
- B. Afghanistan and Mongolia
- C. India and Pakistan
- D. China and Russia

ANSWER: B

4. India and which country held the fourth 2+2 Secretary-level Consultations in New Delhi discussing political, strategic, and defence issues?

- A. United States
- B. Russia
- C. Japan
- D. Australia

ANSWER: D

5. Yulin Naval Base Is In

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. China
- D. Cambodia

ANSWER: C

6. INS 'Vikrant' Is Designed & Built By

- A. Indian Navy & DRDO
- B. Boeing & Indian Navy
- C. DRDO & MDL
- D. Warship Design Bureau & CSL

ANSWER: D

7. Defence Research & Development Laboratory Hq Is In

- A. Hyderabad
- B. New Delhi
- C. Kochi
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

8. Lieutenant Commander Of the Indian Navy Is Equivalent to Which Rank Of IAF?

- A. Squadron Leader
- B. Major
- C. Group Captain
- D. Flying Officer

ANSWER: A

9. Which Is The Capital Of Uzbekistan?

- A. Moscow
- B. Dodoma
- C. Tashkent
- D. Dushanbe

ANSWER: C

10. Ex 'DESERT EAGLE' Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: C

11. Naib Subedar Jeremy Lalrinnunga Is Related With

- A. Table Tennis
- B. Cricket
- C. Boxing
- D. Weightlifting

ANSWER: D

12. What Is The Highest Commissioned Rank Awarded In The IAF?

- A. Air Marshal
- B. Air Chief Marshal
- C. Wing Commander
- D. Admiral

ANSWER: B

13. Rashtriya Raksha University Is In

- A. Gandhinagar

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

ANSWER: A

14. The Zorawar Is A

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

ANSWER: A

15. Current Scientific Advisor To The Defence Minister Is

- A. Rakesh Sinha
- B. S. Somnath
- C. G. Sateesh Reddy
- D. Samir Kamat

ANSWER: C

16. The Current Chairman Of DRDO Is

- A. Rakesh Sinha
- B. S. Somnath
- C. G. Sateesh Reddy
- D. Samir Kamat

ANSWER: D

17. Havildar Achinta Sheuli Is Related With

- A. Archery
- B. Weightlifting
- C. Judo
- D. Football

ANSWER: B

18. Ex SHAKTI, Ex VARUNA, GARUDA India conducted with

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

19. ___Is India's 3rd Highest Military Decoration Award.

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

ANSWER: C

20. Motto of THE MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY REGIMENT

- A. Parakramo Vijayate
- B. Assam Vikram
- C. Yudhaya Krit Nishchaya
- D. Duty, Honour, courage

ANSWER: D

