

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Exercise 'Kharga Shakti'

- The Kharga Corps of the Indian Army successfully conducted a two-day integrated field firing exercise, 'Kharga Shakti', at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges beginning Sunday.
- This comprehensive exercise was aimed at testing and validating the effectiveness of combined arms operations in a simulated battlefield environment, an official statement said.
- He witnessed the showcase of coordinated manoeuvres and integrated firing of various military assets, including attack helicopters, artillery guns, armoured and mechanised platforms, and infantry weapons.



Israel-Hezbollah Truce Deal

- The Israel Cabinet is set to vote on a ceasefire deal with Lebanon on Tuesday after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly gave his "in principle" approval to the plan after a security consultation with Israeli officials.

Here are 10 points on Israel-Lebanon ceasefire talks:

1. The Israeli officials will meet on Tuesday evening to decide on the ceasefire deal as the United States, European Union, and United Nations have been pushing in recent days for a truce in the long-running hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah.
2. Benny Gantz, who had resigned from Israel's war cabinet in June over Netanyahu's handling of the war in Gaza, has called on the Prime Minister to make the details of the ceasefire public. "Netanyahu, present the agreement. It is the right of the residents of the north, the fighters, and the citizens of Israel to know," he wrote in a post on X.
3. The deal that would end the fighting calls for an initial two-month ceasefire during which Israeli forces would withdraw from Lebanon, and Hezbollah would end its armed presence south of the Litani River - over 28 kilometers from the border with Israel, The Israel Times reported.
4. Reportedly, the Israeli forces would also withdraw from southern Lebanon after the ceasefire deal.
5. The US, which has repeatedly voiced for a truce in the Gaza war, expressed optimism over the prospects of a ceasefire. "We believe we've reached this point where we're close to a ceasefire," US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said.
6. Earlier this month, Qatar - which was a key part of the ceasefire negotiations in the Israel-Hamas war, withdrew as a mediator. It also warned Hamas that its Doha office "no longer serves its purpose".
7. Amid the talks for a ceasefire, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on Monday, said that a war crimes case against Netanyahu was insufficient and that he deserved a "death sentence". This comes after the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for Netanyahu last week.
8. Israel and Lebanon have been engaged in a prolonged conflict that began on October 7 last year after Hezbollah attacked Israeli-controlled territory in solidarity with Hamas and Palestinians in Gaza. This sparked a series of tit-for-tat border attacks between Israel and Lebanon.

9. Heavy exchange of fire is continuing between Israel and Hezbollah as Lebanese media reported intense fighting in the border area. On Sunday, Iran-backed Hezbollah fired about 250 rockets and other projectiles into Israel in one of the group's heaviest barrages in months. The latest Israeli strikes also hit around two dozen Hezbollah targets across Lebanon.
10. According to Lebanon's health ministry, over 3,700 people have been killed in the strikes since October last year.



Ongoing Trails of Zorawar

- Wary of fresh misadventures by the Chinese military, the Indian armed forces continue to sharpen their operational readiness. The country's indigenous light tank Zorawar has reached Ladakh's Nyoma field firing range near the LAC for a month-long trial that will continue into mid-December.
- The ongoing trials of the Zorawar light tank in the high-altitude regions of Ladakh represent a strategic manoeuvre by India, particularly in the context of its tense relations with China. This initiative is not just about enhancing military capabilities; it serves as a clear message to Beijing regarding India's preparedness and resolve in the face of ongoing border tensions.
- The Zorawar tank, developed by the DRDO in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro, is specifically designed for operations in challenging high-altitude environments.



Army Day in Pune and Navy Day in Puri

- In 2025, Pune, Maharashtra, will be the focal point for the Indian Army as it celebrates its **77th Army Day** on January 15. This marks a significant shift from the previous tradition of hosting Army Day in the national capital, Delhi.
- Since 2023, the Indian Army has moved the celebrations to different cities across India to foster a closer bond with local communities and provide the public an opportunity to engage with the armed forces.
- Pune, home to the Southern Command, will take over the responsibility for hosting the event, continuing the trend of celebrating Army Day outside of Delhi. In 2023, Bengaluru played host, while Lucknow took center stage in 2024.
- The rotation of Army, Navy, and Air Force Day celebrations reflects a growing effort to bring the armed forces closer to the people and enhance national pride and awareness of the military's role in India's security.



Army To Open Several Border Areas For Tourism

- **In Short**
- Decision is part of Vibrant Village Programme for border development
- Galwan Memorial and areas along LAC in Ladakh to be tourist spots
- Army aims to promote border tourism, maintain high operational preparedness
- In a move to boost border tourism and foster development in remote regions, the Indian Army is preparing to open several restricted border areas, including spots along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), for tourists.
- As part of the programme, plans are underway to make the Galwan Memorial accessible to visitors, similar to the Rezang La War Memorial. Additionally, areas like Trishul and Rangla in Ladakh, among others, are expected to open to tourists once logistical and infrastructural preparations are complete.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the weight of the Zorawar tank developed by DRDO and Larsen & Toubro?

- A. 20 tonnes
- B. 25 tonnes
- C. 30 tonnes
- D. 35 tonnes

ANSWER: B

2. Which Indian Army Corps conducted the integrated field firing exercise 'Kharga Shakti'?

- A. Strike Corps
- B. Kharga Corps
- C. Desert Corps
- D. Mountain Corps

ANSWER: B

3. When is the Indian Army's 77th Army Day scheduled to be celebrated in Pune?

- A. January 26, 2025
- B. January 15, 2025
- C. February 15, 2025
- D. December 4, 2025

ANSWER: B

4. Where will the Indian Navy celebrate Navy Day on December 4, 2024?

- A. Mumbai, Maharashtra
- B. Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- C. Kochi, Kerala
- D. Puri, Odisha

ANSWER: D

5. What type of helicopter is the MH 60R Seahawk?

- A. Transport helicopter
- B. Attack helicopter

- C. Maritime variant of the Blackhawk
- D. Fighter helicopter

ANSWER: C

6. Ex 'JIMEX' Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. Japan
- D. Jamaica

ANSWER: C

7. Home Port of The INS Satpura Is In Joint Exercises B/w

- A. ENC
- B. WNC
- C. SNC
- D. None

ANSWER: A

8. INS Satpura Is A

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

ANSWER: D

9. Cho La Incident Was Done In

- A. 1967
- B. 1988
- C. 1998
- D. 1980

ANSWER: A

10. VL-SRSAM Is A Quick Reaction Surface-to-air Missile Developed By

- A. NASA
- B. BEL
- C. DRDO
- D. ISRO

ANSWER: C

11. Wartime Gallantry Award Is/Are

- A. Param Vir Chakra
- B. Maha Vir Chakra
- C. Vir Chakra
- D. All of the above

ANSWER: D

12. WNC Is In

- A. Mumbai
- B. Kochi
- C. Chennai
- D. Panaji

ANSWER: A

13. Mitra Shakti Ex Held B/w India &

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. USA
- C. UK
- D. Nepal

ANSWER: A

14. SLNS Sayurala Is A Ship Of

- A. Oman
- B. Qatar
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: C

15. "The Blue Book: A Writer's Journal" Book Written By

- A. Amitava Kumar
- B. Vikas Kumar Jha
- C. Usha Uthup
- D. Richa Mishra

ANSWER: A

16. CONAKRY Is The Capital Of

- A. GUINEA
- B. GUATEMALA
- C. GRENADA
- D. GREECE

ANSWER: A

17. IRBM Stands For

- A. Intermediate Resource Ballistic Missile
- B. Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile
- C. Intermediate Range of Ballistic Missile
- D. Intermediated Range Ballistic Missile

ANSWER: B

18. BEL HQ Is In

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Noida
- C. New Delhi
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: A

19. Major Rank Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of The Indian Navy?

- A. Captain
- B. Inspector
- C. Lt Commander
- D. Vice-admiral

ANSWER: C

20. War Cry of ASSAM REGIMENT

- A. Parakramo Vijayate
- B. Rhino Charge
- C. Jai Bajrangbali
- D. Duty, Honour, courage

ANSWER: B