

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Exercise Harimau Shakti 2024

- The 4th edition of India- Malaysia Joint Military Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI commenced today, at Bentong camp, Pahang district, Malaysia. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 2nd to 15th December 2024.
- Indian contingent comprising of 78 personnel is being represented by a Battalion of MAHAR Regiment. The Malaysian contingent is being represented by 123 personnel from The Royal Malaysian Regiment. Joint Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI is an annual training event conducted alternatively in India and Malaysia. Last edition was conducted in Nov 2023 at Umroi Cantonment in Meghalaya, India.
- Aim of the Joint Exercise is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter insurgency operations in jungle terrain under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. The exercise will focus on operations in the jungle environment.



Indian Army Receives 480 Loitering Munitions From Solar Industries

- In a major success for indigenous weapon systems, the Indian Army has received the supply of 480 loitering munitions made by a Nagpur-based defence manufacturing firm with over 75 per cent indigenous content.
- The first indigenous Loiter Munition, Nagastra-1, developed by Solar Industries in Nagpur has supplied the complete lot of 480 loitering munitions under a contract signed under emergency procurement powers by the force, defence officials said.
- The indigenous loitering munition named Nagastra-1 has an indigenous content of more than 75 per cent and has been designed and developed indigenously by the firm.
- The system is man-portable, and light and is intended to be used for precision strike capabilities by the Army troops, officials said.
- Solar Industries is working on the advanced versions of the munition named Nagastra-2 and Nagastra-3 with extended performance and warhead carrying capabilities.



Indian Navy Hopes To Sign Rs 90,000 Crore Deals For 26 Rafale, 3 Scorpene Submarines By Next Month

- The Indian Navy is hoping to finalise the Rs 90,000 crore deals for 26 Rafale Marine combat aircraft and three additional Scorpene submarines by next month, announced Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi on Monday.

- Addressing the annual Navy Day press conference, Admiral Tripathi stated, "The Indian Navy is hoping to sign the deals for Rafale-Marine and three additional Scorpene submarines by next month."
- The Indian Navy has been negotiating with France for the purchase of 26 Rafale Marine fighter aircraft and with the French Naval Group for the construction of three additional Scorpene-class submarines at Mazagon Dockyards Limited.
- The three submarines will complement the six Scorpene-class submarines that have already been built by the dockyard.
- The Indian Navy is looking to induct the three submarines along with the Project 75 India programme, which aims to enhance India's indigenous submarine capabilities.



Germany Pledges Extra \$680 Million To Ukraine In Effort At Reassurance

- Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany paid a surprise visit to Ukraine on Monday, his first in more than two years, to reaffirm his country's support amid mounting concern in Kyiv that the West could scale back military aid and push for a negotiated settlement with Russia.
- Scholz's trip came two weeks after he held a phone call with President Vladimir Putin of Russia to discuss potential paths to end the war. Ukrainian officials denounced that outreach, saying it broke Putin's diplomatic isolation from the West and bolstered Moscow's position before possible peace talks.
- President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine was particularly critical, warning that Scholz's phone call risked opening "a Pandora's box" by encouraging more

leaders to engage with Putin, ultimately legitimizing the Russian president's position.

- Scholz's visit to Kyiv on Monday appeared, at least in part, aimed at easing those tensions, and he announced that his country would deliver an additional \$680 million of military equipment to Ukraine by the year's end. "Germany will remain Ukraine's strongest supporter in Europe," Scholz said in a social media post after his arrival on an overnight train.



Russia and Iran Pledge Support For Syria's Assad Against Advancing Rebels

- Syrian President Bashar Assad's staunchest allies, Russia and Iran, pledged unconditional support to his government Monday, sending warplanes and voicing diplomatic support as his forces attempted to repel a startling rebel advance in his country's northwest.
- Russian and Syrian fighter jets were striking targets across territory seized by rebels in northwestern Syria on Monday, according to Syrian state media and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The Observatory, a Britain-based war monitor, said the strikes had killed civilians and fighters.
- Yet the rebels appeared to continue their advance through Aleppo, once Syria's largest city, and the surrounding areas, battling pro-Assad forces to capture more territory in Hama province in western Syria.
- Russian and Iranian officials stood by Assad in a flurry of statements, phone calls and public appearances Monday, suggesting they would continue to prop him up with military and diplomatic aid, as they have done since the Syrian civil war first threatened his autocratic rule in 2011.

- But it remains to be seen if they can back up that rhetoric by halting the rebel advance, especially since neither have committed to sending ground troops to shore up Assad. Just the fact that the rebels were able to seize a large expanse of government-held territory in a few days showed weaknesses in the partnership that had helped Assad survive years of conflict.
- In a call between President Vladimir Putin of Russia and President Masoud Pezeshkian of Iran, the two leaders expressed “unconditional support” for Syria’s government, calling the rebel offensive a “large-scale aggression by terrorist groups and gangs,” according to a statement from the Kremlin’s press office.
- Iran and the militia it backs in Lebanon, Hezbollah, both supplied fighters to bolster Syria’s military. But they have taken a series of body blows from Israel during the regionwide conflict of the past year. Hezbollah’s leadership is decimated and its forces battered after its most recent war with Israel, which ended with a cease-fire last week.



Putin Approves Budget Plans With Record Defence Spending

- Russian President Vladimir Putin has approved the country’s budget plans, raising military spending to record levels for next year as Russia aims to secure victory in its war against Ukraine.
- According to a report by the Associated Press on Sunday (1 December), approximately 32.5% of the budget, published on a government website, has been allocated to defence, amounting to over \$145 billion. This marks an increase from 28.3% reported for this year.

- The budget also projects a slight reduction in military spending in 2026 and 2027, with \$114.9 billion allocated for 2026 and \$122.4 billion for 2027.
- Putin's approval comes just days after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky signed into law his country's budget for 2025. According to The Kyiv Independent, Kyiv plans to spend \$53 billion on defence next year, amounting to 26.3% of its projected GDP.
- The war, which began in February 2022, remains Europe's largest conflict since the Second World War, depleting resources on both sides. While Ukraine continues to receive significant support from Western allies, Russia's larger and better-equipped forces have made advances, particularly in the eastern regions.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of the joint military exercise between the Indian Army and Malaysia Armed Forces?

- A. AGNI WARRIOR
- B. YUDH ABHYAS
- C. Harimau SHAKTI
- D. HAND-IN-HAND

ANSWER: A

2. What is the name of the 25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug delivered to the Indian Navy on May 2024?

- A. Baljeet
- B. Varsha

- C. Arjun
- D. Vikrant

ANSWER: A

3. Where did the steel-cutting ceremony for the first Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel take place?

- A. Cochin Shipyard
- B. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)
- C. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)
- D. Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)

ANSWER: C

4. Ex 'LAMITIYE' conducted b/w India &

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

ANSWER: D

5. IMEC Stands For

- A. India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor
- B. India-Middle East- Economic Corridor
- C. India-Middle Europe Economic Corridor
- D. None

ANSWER: A

6. Indian Military Academy Situated At

- A. Ezhimala, Kerala
- B. Dundigal, Telangana
- C. Khadakwasla, Maharashtra
- D. Dehradun, UK

ANSWER: D

7. Garuda Shakti Ex Held B/w India &

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. USA
- C. Indonesia

D. Nepal

ANSWER: C

8. Warsaw Is The Capital Of

A. Poland

B. Ukraine

C. Germany

D. Oman

ANSWER: A

9. War Cry Of MECHANISED INFANTRY REGIMENT Is

A. Bol Bajrang Bali Ki jai

B. Raja Ramachandra ki jai

C. Bolo Bharat Mata ki jai

D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

10. CRPF Motto Is

A. Service Before Self

B. Service and Loyalty

C. We Protect

D. Touch the sky with glory

ANSWER: B

11. ICGS Saksham Is A

A. Destroyer

B. Aircraft Carrier

C. OPV

D. Refueling Ship

ANSWER: C

12. "Nuclearization of Asia" Book Written By

A. Rene Naba

B. VR Chaudhari

C. Gen Parvez Musharraf

D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: A

13. Indian Coast Guard Formed On

- A. August 18, 1978
- B. September 18, 1978
- C. March 18, 1976
- D. April 18, 1976

ANSWER: A

14. 'MBT Bhisma' Is The Name Of :

- A. Fighter aircraft
- B. Tank
- C. Armoured vehicles
- D. Infantry regiments

ANSWER: B

15. Barak Is A

- A. Surface-to-air Missile
- B. Surface-to-Surface Missile
- C. Air-to-air Missile
- D. Surface-to-Sea Missile

ANSWER: A

16. INS Valsura Located At

- A. Jamnagar, Gujrat
- B. Mumbai, M.H
- C. Kochi, Kerala
- D. A & NC

ANSWER: A

17. Exercise Maitree Conducted B/w India &

- A. Thailand
- B. Nepal
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Bhutan

ANSWER: A

18. Infantry School Of Indian Army Is At

- A. Mhow
- B. Bhopal

- C. Gwalior
- D. Jammu

ANSWER: A

19. Officers Training Academy Is At

- A. Chennai
- B. Bhopal
- C. Gaya
- D. Both A & C

ANSWER: D

20. The IAI Heron UAV Developed By

- A. USA
- B. South Korea
- C. Israel
- D. China

ANSWER: C

