

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Exercise Ekuverin

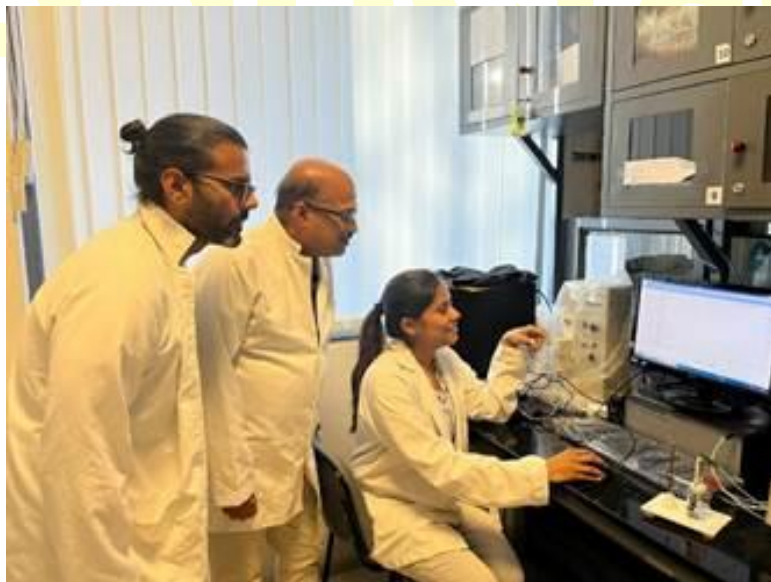
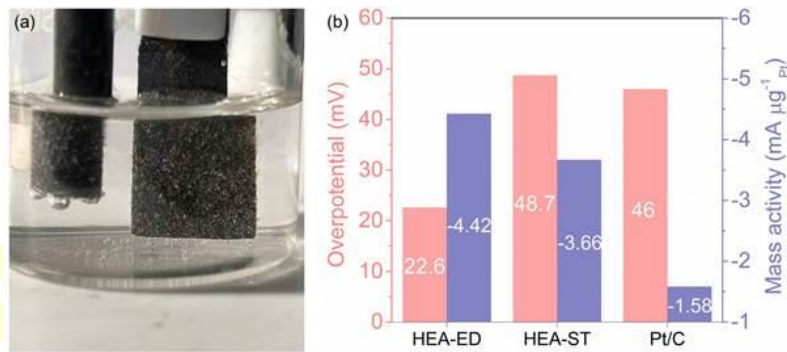
- The **13th edition** of joint military exercise Ekuverin between the Indian Army and the **Maldives National Defence Force** has commenced in the archipelago nation, officials here said.
- Ekuverin meaning 'Friends' in Dhivehi language is a bilateral annual exercise conducted alternatively in India and Maldives. In 2023, it was conducted at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand from June 11 to 24.
- The 14-day exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability in counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations and carry out joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.



Scientists Developed a Novel alloy-based catalyst for Green Hydrogen

- A new efficient alloy-based catalyst developed for improved hydrogen production through electrolysis of water into hydrogen and oxygen, can pave the path towards a solution for clean energy production.

- This innovative approach using **high-entropy alloy (HEA)**, could reduce reliance on expensive materials like platinum for clean energy production.
- Typically, alloys are metallic substances composed of two or more elements, that are prepared by adding relatively small amounts of secondary elements to a primary metal.
- Researchers at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) in Bengaluru, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) have developed a novel high-entropy alloy (HEA) catalyst called PtPdCoNiMn (consisting of Platinum, Palladium, Cobalt, Nickel and Manganese).



Delivery of Apache Attack Helicopters

- The Indian Army's **Apache Squadron** is still waiting for the first batch of Apache **AH-64E attack helicopters** from the US since the past 11 months of its raising. The delivery of the combat helicopters has once again missed the second deadline.

- As part of a USD 600 million deal signed in 2020 with the US, the Army had expected delivery of six Apache helicopters by June 2024. However, the timeline was shifted to December 2024 due to supply chain disruption.
- The wait is still not over for the **Army's Aviation Corps**, as the Apache helicopters have still not been delivered.
- Originally, six helicopters were planned to arrive in batches of three. The first batch was expected between May and June 2024. However, the helicopters have yet to reach India, leaving the Army's first Apache Squadron in anticipation.
- The Army's Aviation Corps raised its first Apache Squadron at Nagtalao in Jodhpur in March 2024. The pilots and ground staff were trained and ready to undertake flight operations, but they remain in uncertainty as the Army is itself not aware about the delivery timelines of the American attack helicopters.
- The Indian Air Force has already inducted **22 Apache helicopters** as part of a separate order signed in 2015, while the Army is awaiting these advanced attack helicopters to bolster its capabilities.

HELICOPTERS:-



Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv: An indigenous multi-role helicopter used for various purposes, including transport, reconnaissance and search and rescue missions. The Dhruv fleet remains grounded after a ICG ALH crashed last month.

Rudra: An armed version of the ALH Dhruv, equipped with weapons for close air support and anti-tank missions. The fleet remains grounded for security checks by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Cheetah and Chetak: Light utility helicopters used for reconnaissance, casualty evacuation and logistics.

Light Combat Helicopter (LCH): A newer addition designed for high-altitude operations, capable of carrying out offensive missions in support of ground troops.

Fixed-Wing Aircraft - Dornier 228: A light transport aircraft used for reconnaissance, logistics and communication duties.

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (UAVs):

Heron: Medium-altitude, long-endurance UAVs used for surveillance and reconnaissance.

Searcher: Tactical UAVs for shorter-range surveillance and reconnaissance missions.



Rashtrapati Bhavan to Host A Wedding

- The Rashtrapati Bhavan serves as the official residence of the President of India and this is wThe report states that President Murmu has been highly impressed by Gupta's performance and has thus arranged for the wedding ceremony to be conducted in the Mother Teresa Crown Complex within the Rashtrapati Bhavan premises.
- Poonam Gupta is a CRPF assistant commandant. She is currently posted as a personal security officer (PSO) of the President.
- Gupta will reportedly marry another assistant commandant, Avneesh Kumar, who is currently posted in Jammu and Kashmir.
- February 12 is the date that has been fixed for the occasion.
- A highly qualified officer, Gupta holds a bachelor's degree in Maths, a postgraduate degree in English Literature, and a BEd from Gwalior's Jiwaji University.
- Gupta was ranked 81st in the UPSC CAPF exam, as per the report. She was earlier posted at a Naxal-affected area in Bihar.



US Firm General Atomics Replaces Indian Navy's Crashed Drone

- US firm General Atomics has replaced the Indian Navy's MQ-9B SeaGuardian drone that crashed into the Bay of Bengal on September 18, 2024.
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- The replacement was made under a lease agreement between the company and the Indian Navy, which allows for the provision of remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) operations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
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- The crash, attributed to a power failure, resulted in the drone being written off. Following the incident, General Atomics fulfilled its contractual obligations by providing a new unit to ensure continued surveillance capabilities for the Navy.
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- The Navy has been using these drones extensively to monitor maritime activities, particularly in relation to China's increasing presence in the region.
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- In addition to this replacement, India is set to enhance its drone capabilities further with a \$3.5 billion deal for 31 MQ-9B Sea/SkyGuardian drones, with deliveries expected to start in 2029. This acquisition aims to bolster India's defence preparedness amid regional security challenges.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of the military exercise between the India and the Maldives?

- A. Vajra Prahar
- B. Mitra Shakti
- C. Ekuverin
- D. Sampriti

ANSWER: C

2. Who is the CRPF officer serving as the personal security officer (PSO) of the President of India?

- A. Avneesh Kumar
- B. Poonam Gupta
- C. Droupadi Murmu
- D. Rajnath Singh

ANSWER: B

3. What is the range of the Nirbhay missile that India's defence forces are looking to induct?

- A. 500 km
- B. 1,000 km
- C. 2,000 km
- D. 3,000 km

ANSWER: C

4. When was the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) established?

- A. 1995
- B. 1997
- C. 2000
- D. 2005

ANSWER: B

5. Which company is supplying the Apache helicopters to the Indian Army?

- A. Lockheed Martin
- B. Airbus
- C. Bell
- D. Boeing

ANSWER: D

6. In which year did Indian soldiers achieve a decisive victory in the Battle of Haifa?

- A. 1918
- B. 1920
- C. 1915
- D. 1917

ANSWER: A

7. In Colonial Era CRPF Was Known As

- A. Crown Representative's Police
- B. Crown Response Force
- C. Queens Protection Force
- D. None

ANSWER: A

8. Elizabeth II was Queen Of The

- A. USA
- B. UK
- C. Israel
- D. China

ANSWER: B

9. Ex HARIMAU SHAKTI Conducted b/w India &

- A. Malaysia
- B. Maldives

- C. Mongolia
- D. Myanmar

ANSWER: A

10. INS Darshak Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Hydrographic Survey Ship

ANSWER: D

11. Pangong Tso lake Is Located In

- A. Kashmir
- B. Ladakh
- C. Odisha
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: B

12. INS Khukri Is A Type Of

- A. Frigate
- B. Submarine
- C. Destroyer
- D. Missile Corvette

ANSWER: D

13. Priyadarshini Is A Fast Patrol Vessel Of

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

ANSWER: A

14. Pangong Tso lake Is Located In

- A. Kashmir
- B. Ladakh
- C. Odisha
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: B

15. Priyadarshini Is A Fast Patrol Vessel Of

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

ANSWER: A

16. Which Port Is Located In the Western Coast of India?

- A. Kandla
- B. Kolkata
- C. Mangalore
- D. Visakhapatnam

ANSWER: A

17. AAI Stands For

- A. Airport Author of India
- B. Air Authority of India
- C. Airport Authority of India
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

18. India Purchased Boeing 737 from

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

ANSWER: A

19. Indian Army Flag Consist Colours of ___ Colours.

- A. Gold, Red And Black
- B. Gold, Red And Blue
- C. Gold, Rose Black And Black
- D. Green, Red And Black

ANSWER: A

20. NCC Flag Consist Colours of ___ Colours.

- A. Red, Navy Blue, Sky Blue
- B. Gold, Red And Blue
- C. Gold, Rose Black And Black

D. Green, Red And Black

ANSWER: A