

Current Affairs search results for tag: defence

1. India gifts missile corvette INS Kirpan to Vietnam (June 20, 2023)

India-gifts-missile-corvette-INS-Kirpan-to-Vietnam

Defense Minister **Rajnath Singh** on 19 June announced the gift of an indigenous in-service **missile corvette, INS Kirpan**, to the **Vietnam People's Navy**.

An overview of the news

- The announcement is expected to significantly enhance the capabilities of the **Vietnamese Navy**.
- The announcement was made during talks between Defense Minister Singh and Defense Minister of Vietnam General **Phan Van Gang in Delhi**.
- During the meeting, bilateral defense cooperation initiatives between India and Vietnam were reviewed and both sides expressed satisfaction at the progress of the ongoing engagements.
- The Ministers identified opportunities to further enhance cooperation, particularly in areas such as defense industry cooperation, maritime security and multinational cooperation.
- Apart from the talks, the Defense Minister of Vietnam also visited the **Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** headquarters to explore ways to enhance defense industrial capabilities through research and joint production.
- The strengthening of defense ties between India and Vietnam underscores the strategic partnership between the two countries and their shared commitment to regional security and cooperation.

About INS Kirpan

- INS Kirpan is a missile corvette belonging to the **Khukri class** with a displacement of about **1,350 tonnes**.
- It was commissioned into the Indian Navy on **12 January 1991**.
- The length of the corvette is **91 meters** and the beam is **11 metres**.
- It is capable of attaining speeds of over **25 knots**.
- Equipped with a variety of weapons including medium-range cannon, **30 mm close-range gun**, chaff launcher and surface-to-surface missiles, INS Kirpan has the versatility to play multiple roles.
- The roles performed by INS Kirpan include coastal and offshore patrolling, coastal security, surface warfare, anti-piracy operations and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

2. Joint Exercise 'Khaan Quest' 2023' (June 20, 2023)

Joint-Exercise-'Khaan-Quest'-2023

With the participation of military contingents and observers from more than **20 countries**, the multinational peacekeeping joint exercise "**Ex Khan Quest 2023**" began in **Mongolia** on 19 June.

An overview of the news

- The ceremony was inaugurated by Mongolian President **Ukhnaagin Khurelsukh** at the exercise site.
- The exercise is jointly sponsored by the **Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF)** and the **United States Army Pacific Command (USARPAC)**.
- The Indian Army is being represented by a contingent of the **Garhwal Rifles**.

Purpose of the exercise

- The **14-day exercise** aims to improve interoperability among the participating countries, facilitate exchange of experiences and provide training to uniformed personnel for **United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO)**.

Significance of exercise

- The exercise will help prepare participants for future **UN peacekeeping operations**, enhance peacekeeping capabilities and improve military preparedness.
- It includes various activities like **Command Post Exercise (CPX), Field Training Exercise (FTX), Combat Discussion, Lectures** and Demonstrations.
- This military exercise will strengthen defense cooperation between the Indian Army and the participating countries, especially the Mongolian Armed Forces, thereby enhancing bilateral relations between **India and Mongolia**.

About Mongolia

- It is located in **North Central Asia**.
- Capital: **Ulaanbaatar**
- Currency: **Tugrik**
- President: **Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh**

3. DAC approves procurement of armed UAV MQ-9 Predator drones from US (June 19, 2023)

UAV-MQ-9

India's defence ministry on 15th June approved the **acquisition of 31 MQ-9B armed drones from the US**.

An overview of the news

- The **Defense Acquisition Council (DAC)** has approved the purchase of armed **Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)** at a cost of over **\$3 billion**.
- The UAVs will be procured from **General Atomics Aeronautical Systems (GA-ASI)**, a United States-based aeronautical company.

What are Predator Drones?

- The Predator UAV, produced by **General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI)**, is commonly referred to as the **MQ-9**.
- The MQ-9 has an impressive endurance, **capable of flying for over 27 hours** without refueling.
- It can reach speeds of up to **240 KTAS (Knots True Airspeed)**.
- The UAV is designed to operate at high altitudes, with a **maximum operating ceiling of 50,000 feet**.
- It possesses a substantial payload capacity, allowing it to carry up to **3,850 pounds (1,746 kilograms)** of equipment, sensors, or other mission-specific payloads.
- Additionally, the MQ-9 has the capability to carry external stores, such as weapons or additional fuel, with a **maximum weight of 3,000 pounds (1,361 kilograms)**.

Benefits of the MQ-9 UAV

- The **MQ-9 UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle)** exhibits an increased payload capacity and horsepower in comparison to its predecessor, the **MQ-1 Predator**.
- It offers extended endurance, persistent surveillance, and the ability to carry out strikes, providing valuable capabilities for military operations.
- The MQ-9 UAV has a maritime variant known as the **Sea Guardian**.
- The Sea Guardian variant of the MQ-9 UAV possesses an impressive endurance capability of **over 30 hours**, making it suitable for maritime surveillance and other related missions.

4. Indian Navy's Outreach Program "Jully Ladakh" (Hello Ladakh) (June 16, 2023)

The **Indian Navy** recently has launched an outreach program called "**Julley Ladakh**" (**Hello Ladakh**) to increase awareness about the Navy and engage with the youth and civil society in the pristine state of Ladakh.

An overview of the news

- As part of this initiative, a **5000 km Motorcycle Expedition** was flagged off from the **National War Memorial** on June 15, 2023, by **Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh**, the **Vice Chief of Naval Staff**.

- This outreach program follows the successful efforts of the Indian Navy in the North East region and the **Sam No Varunah car expedition**, which aimed to connect with citizens in coastal states.

Outreach activities

- The outreach activities planned for this program include a **Motor Cycle Expedition** that will pass through a significant part of Ladakh.
- In addition the famous **Navy band concert, a medical camp, and a football match** between the Navy and the Ladakh Football Club have also been organised.

Key objectives of the "Julley Ladakh" initiative

- Celebrate **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**, which marks **75 years** of Indian Independence.
- Conduct awareness drives at schools and colleges in Ladakh to highlight the career opportunities offered by the Indian Navy, including the **Agnipath Scheme**.
- Motivate the youth to consider joining the Indian Navy.
- Showcase "**Nari Shakti**," an initiative of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, by including women officers and spouses in the program.
- Interact with naval veterans and **Veer Naris (war widows)** in the region.

5. Defence Ministry signs Rs 500 crore contract to strengthen Indian Army's communication system (June 16, 2023)

Defence-Ministry-signs-Rs-500-crore-contract

In a significant move to promote indigenous manufacturing and support the vision of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, the **Ministry of Defence** has signed a contract with **ICOMM Tele Limited, Hyderabad**, on June 15, 2023, in New Delhi.

An overview of the news

- The contract is for the procurement of **1,035 units of 5/7.5 Ton Radio Relay Communication equipment containers**, with a contract value of approximately **Rs 500 crore**.
- The delivery of these containers is scheduled to commence in the current **financial year 2023-24**.
- The acquisition of these **Radio Relay Containers** fulfills a long-pending requirement for mobile communication detachments of the Indian Army.
- These containers will play a crucial role in providing a protected environment for communication equipment, ensuring its efficient and reliable functioning.
- To support the indigenous manufacturing of defence equipment, the company, **ICOMM Tele Limited**, will produce these containers using equipment and systems sourced entirely from indigenous manufacturers.

Significance of MoU

- This approach will not only enhance domestic production capabilities but also encourage the **active participation of the private sector** in achieving the goals of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
- By investing in domestic manufacturing and promoting self-reliance in the defence sector, the Ministry of Defence aims to **strengthen India's defence capabilities while reducing dependency on foreign imports**.
- This contract marks a significant step towards achieving the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and stimulating the growth of the **indigenous defence industry**.

6. Third ASW SWC class ship 'Anjadeep' launched at Chennai (June 16, 2023)

Third-ASW-SWC-class-ship-'Anjadeep'-launched-at-Chennai

The third ship of the **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)** project '**Anjadeep**' was launched on **June 13, 2023 at M/s L&T, Kattupalli**.

An Overview of the News

- Kattupalli is a suburb located north of Chennai, a metropolitan city in Tamil Nadu, India.
- The launch function was presided over by **VADM RB Pandit, C-in-C (SFC)**.
- The ship has been named 'Anjadeep' to reflect the strategic maritime importance of Anjadeep Island.
- The ASW SWC ships are being built by **M/s GRSE for the Indian Navy**.

Signing of contract for construction of ASW SWC ships:

- The contract for construction of **eight ASW SWC ships** was signed **between MoD and GRSE on April 29, 2019**.
- Four ships are being built at **GRSE, Kolkata**, while the remaining four ships are being built by **M/s L&T Shipbuilding, Kattupalli**.
- The ASW SWC ships are designed to replace the in-service Abhay class ASW corvettes and are meant for anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, **low intensity maritime operations (LIMO)**, mine laying operations and subsurface surveillance in coastal waters.
- The ASW SWC ships have a **length of 77 metres, a displacement of 900 tonnes, a maximum speed of 25 knots and an endurance of 1800 nautical miles**.
- The launch of the three ships within six months reflects India's commitment towards indigenous shipbuilding and the government's vision of '**Atmanirbhar Bharat**'.

About Tamil Nadu

- The state was formed on **26 January 1950** but its boundaries were redrawn on **14 January 1969**.
- It is situated at the mouth of the **Arabian Sea**, the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean.

Governor - **Ravindra Narayan Ravi**

Chief Minister - **MK Stalin**

Assembly seats - **235 seats**

Rajya Sabha seats - **18**

Lok Sabha seats - **39**

7. Fourth warship of Indian Navy 'Sanshodhak' launched (June 14, 2023)

fourth Survey Vessel Large (SVL)

The **fourth Survey Vessel Large (SVL)** of the **Indian Navy**, named '**Sanshodhak**', was launched at **Kattupalli, Chennai** on 13th June.

An overview of the news

- The launch ceremony, held on June 13, was attended by **Adhir Arora**, Chief Hydrographer to the Government of India, as the chief guest.
- Tanvi Arora launched the ship while an invocation from the Atharva Veda was chanted, following naval maritime traditions.

About 'Sanshodhak' warship

- The ship's name, meaning '**Researcher**', reflects its primary role as a Survey Vessel.
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) highlighted the launch of the fourth SVL as a testament to **India's commitment to indigenous shipbuilding**, aligning with the government's '**Make in India**' and **Aatma Nirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) vision**.
- The project, undertaken by L&T/GRSE for the Indian Navy, demonstrates the nation's resolve in promoting self-sufficiency in defense manufacturing.

Purpose and features of SVL ships

- The SVL ships are designed to replace the existing **Sandhayak Class survey ships** and are equipped with new-generation hydrographic equipment to collect **oceanographic data**.
- These ships have a **length of 110 meters, a width of 16 meters**, and a **displacement of 3,400 tons**.

- The hull of the ships is constructed using **DMR 249-A steel**, an indigenously developed material manufactured by the **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)**.
- With over **80 percent indigenous content** by cost, the SVL project promotes defense production by Indian manufacturing units, contributing to employment generation and enhancing warship building capabilities in the country.

Construction and launch timeline

- The contract for building four SVL ships was signed between the **MoD and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata**, on October 30, 2018.
- As per the build strategy, the first ship was built at GRSE, Kolkata, while the construction of the remaining three ships up to the outfitting stage was sub-contracted to L&T Shipbuilding, Kattupalli.
- The first three ships, named **Sandhayak, Nirdeshak, and Ikshak**, were launched on December 5, 2021, May 26, 2022, and November 26, 2022, respectively.

8. Indo-Maldives joint military exercise “Ekuverein” at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand (June 13, 2023)

“Ekuverein”-at-Chaubatia,-Uttarakhand

The **12th edition of the joint military exercise “Ex Ekuverin”** between the **Indian Army and the Maldives National Defense Force** has commenced on 11 June 2023 at **Chaubatia, Uttarakhand**.

An Overview of the News:

- Ekuverein, meaning 'friend', is a bilateral annual exercise held alternately in India and Maldives.
- The joint military exercise "EX EKUVERIN" between the two countries will be held from 11 to 24 June 2023.
- A platoon-strength contingent of the **Indian Army and Maldives National Defense Force** will participate in the 14-day long exercise.
- The 14-day exercise aims to enhance interoperability in UN counter-insurgency/anti-terrorist operations and promote joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.
- It will focus on sharing best practices, enhancing coordination and cooperation between the two forces at the tactical level.
- The **11th edition of joint military exercise "EX EKUVERIN"** was held in **Maldives** in December 2021.

Maldives:

- Capital: **Malé**
- President: **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih**
- Currency: **Rufiyaa**

Uttarakhand:

- Capital: **Dehradun**
- Governor: **Gurmeet Singh**
- Chief Minister: **Pushkar Singh Dhami**

9. Indian Navy commemorates 130th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's 'Satyagraha' in Durban (June 12, 2023)

INS Trishul, a flagship warship of the Indian Navy, celebrated the **130th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's 'Satyagraha'** at the **Durban port in South Africa**.

An Overview of the News

- The purpose of its visit was to commemorate the **130th anniversary** of an incident that took place on **7 June 1893 at Pietermaritzburg railway station**.
- The incident led to Mahatma Gandhi being **ejected from a train** and played an important role in his fight against discrimination.
- INS Trishul's visit to **Durban harbour** serves as a commemoration of Gandhi's '**Satyagraha**'.
- 'Satyagraha' refers to Gandhi's doctrine of nonviolent resistance.
- By celebrating 'Satyagraha' on board INS Trishul, the Indian Navy pays tribute to the principles of Gandhi and inspires generations to come.

About the visit of INS Trishul warship to Durban

- Its visit to Durban is part of the Navy's celebrations for **India's 75th Independence anniversary** and the resumption of diplomatic relations between India and South Africa 30 years ago.
- The visit included a commemorative meeting at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station, paying homage to the Gandhi Plinth and a performance by the **Indian Navy Band**.
- A '**Gandhi-Mandela-King Conference**' will be organised in association with the **Pietermaritzburg Gandhi Foundation** and the **University of KwaZulu-Natal**.

Mahatma Gandhi Satyagraha

- **Satyagraha was a nonviolent resistance movement** initiated by **Mahatma Gandhi** during the Indian independence struggle **against British rule**.
- Satyagraha was first employed in **South Africa in 1915** when Gandhi led a successful resistance against discriminatory racial laws.
- The movement gained momentum in India during the **1920s and 30s**, leading to important civil disobedience campaigns such as the **Salt March and the Quit India Movement**.

- The principles of satyagraha were also applied to other struggles around the world, including the **fight against colonialism in Africa and Latin America**.
- Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha is considered one of the most powerful and successful tools for social and political change, adopted by people across the world.

10. First edition of India, France and UAE maritime partnership exercise begins (June 10, 2023)

France-and-UAE

The **first edition of the India, France and UAE maritime partnership exercise** began in the **Gulf of Oman**.

An Overview of the News

- The exercise includes the participation of **INS Tarkash and French Ship Surcouf**, both equipped with integral helicopters, as well as **French Rafale aircraft and UAE Navy Maritime Patrol Aircraft**.
- The exercise focused on a wide range of naval operations, including surface combat, tactical firing, missile engagement on surface targets, helicopter cross deck landing operations, advanced air defence exercises and boarding operations.
- The primary objective of the exercise is to enhance trilateral cooperation between the three navies and address conventional and non-conventional threats in the maritime environment.
- The exercise serves as a platform for sharing of knowledge, experience and best practices in maritime security.
- The participating navies aim to strengthen ties, promote mutual understanding and promote regional security and stability in the maritime domain.

United Arab Emirates (UAE):

- Capital - **Abu Dhabi**
- Official language - **Arabic**
- Government - **Federal Islamic parliamentary elective semi-constitutional monarchy**
- President/Crown Prince - **Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**
- Prime Minister - **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**
- Vice President - **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

Oman:

- Capital - **Muscat**
- Currency - **Omani Rial**
- Official language - **Arabic**
- Sultan - **Haitham bin Tariq**
- Crown Prince - **Thiazin bin Haitham**