



Yojna IAS

C-32 NOIDA SECTOR-02
UTTAR PARDESH (201301)
CONTACT NO. +8595907569

CURRENT AFFAIRS



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Cobra Warrior' exercise

- India's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, indigenously designed, developed and manufactured, will participate in the famous 'Cobra Warrior' exercise.

Key point

- Cobra Warrior is a multi-nation air exercise, which will be conducted at Royal Air Force Station Waddington in the United Kingdom.
- Earlier, Tejas participated in flying displays at International Air Shows in Dubai and Singapore.

Exercise Cobra Warrior

- The Cobra Warrior exercise is the largest joint military exercise, conducted by the Royal Air Force (RAAF) in the United Kingdom. This exercise is the most challenging training for aircrew.
- On February 23, five Tejas fighter jets will fly to the United Kingdom. Necessary transport support to Tejas will be provided by an IAF, C-17 Globemaster III military transport aircraft and two C-130Js.
- This exercise will be conducted from March 6, 2022 to March 27, 2022.

Purpose of the exercise

- The Cobra Warrior exercise will be conducted with an objective to provide operational demonstration and share best practices among the participating Air Forces.
- It will also enhance the combat capability and strengthen the bond of friendship. LCA Tejas will showcase its mobility and operational efficiency on this platform.

MILAN Exercise

- ‘MILAN’ is a multilateral naval exercise organized by the Indian Navy. It is a biennial exercise and includes seminars, games, social events and professional exercises between the participating countries.

Key point

- This exercise was started in the year 1995.
- Navies of Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka along with the Indian Navy participated in the inaugural edition of the exercise.
- All the editions of MILAN were held in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands under the Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- The Navy announced in 2020 that the next edition of Milan will be held at Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command.
- The exercise is conducted under various themes like anti-submarine warfare and other areas.
- Areas of cooperation for this exercise include capacity building, training, maritime domain awareness, technical support, hydrography and operational exercises.
- Through professional engagement with friendly navies, the exercise aims to improve operational capabilities, establish best practices and procedures and enable learning in the maritime environment.

Milan Exercise 2022

- This year’s MILAN exercise will be the largest edition of the exercise in which 46 countries will be invited to participate.
- This year’s Milan exercise will be held in February 2022 in Visakhapatnam. QUAD countries will also participate in this.
- MILAN 22 is being conducted in two phases over a period of nine days, with the port phase from February 25 to February 28 and the sea phase from March 1 to 4.
- The theme of this year’s exercise is ‘Camaraderie – Cohesion – Collaboration’ through which India will be projected to the world as a responsible maritime power.

Eastern Bridge VI: Exercises

- Recently, Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force of Oman started a five-day bilateral exercise at Jodhpur Air Force Station. The exercise has been named Eastern Bridge VI.
- The exercise will enhance interaction, exchange of experiences and operational knowledge, besides strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries.
- Exercise Eastern Bridge V was conducted in October 2019 at Air Force Base Masirah, Oman.

Oman's strategic importance for India:

- Oman is India's closest defense partner in the Gulf region and is vital to India's defense and strategic interests.
- Oman is at the entrance of the Strait of Hormuz through which India imports a fifth of its oil imports.
- Defense cooperation has emerged as a key pillar for a strong India-Oman strategic partnership. Defense exchanges are guided by a framework MoU which was recently renewed in the year 2021.
- Oman is the only country in the Gulf region with which the three forces of the Indian Armed Forces regularly conduct bilateral exercises and staff talks, thereby establishing close professional cooperation and trust between the two countries.
- Naseem al-Bahr is a naval exercise conducted between the two countries.
- Al Nagah is a joint exercise between the armies of two countries.
- Eastern Bridge is a joint exercise between the Air Forces of both the countries.
- Oman also provides vital operational support to the Indian Navy's deployment in the Arabian Sea for anti-piracy operations.
- Oman has also been actively participating in the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).
- India has supplied rifles to Oman. Along with this, India is also considering setting up a defense production unit in Oman.

Access to Duqm Port in Oman:

- As a strategic move to expand its presence in the Indian Ocean region, India has gained access to the major port of Duqam in Oman for military use and military support.

- The move is part of India's maritime strategy to counter Chinese influence and activities in the region.
- Duqm port is located on the southeast coast of Oman.
- It is strategically located near Chabahar port in Iran. With Assumption Island being developed at Agalega in Seychelles and Mauritius, Ducam fits well into India's active maritime security roadmap.

Swadeep Kumar

Yojna IAS