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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram; H – Hyderabad*
Military base used by U.S. forces in Kenya attacked

Aircraft, choppers & vehicles destroyed

**Civilspedia Team - Shankar IAS Academy**

Shekau from Somalia’s Al-Shabaab group on Sunday stormed a military base used by U.S. forces in Kenya’s coastal Lamu region, destroying several aircraft and military vehicles, according to Kenyan police and army officials.

Attackers breached heavy security at Camp Simba at dawn but were repelled and four Jihadists were killed, said Army spokesman Colonel Paul Njogu.

Al-Shabaab has launched regular cross-border raids since Kenya sent troops into Somalia in 2017 as part of an African Union force protecting the internationally backed government – which the Jihadists have been trying to overthrow for more than a decade.

The Lamu region, which includes popular tourist beaches, is home to the Somali frontier and has suffered frequent attacks, often carried out with machine guns.

Njogu said an attempt was made to breach security at Manda Air Strip, but this was repelled.

“Unfortunately some losses have been incurred. The airstrip is safe,” he said, adding that a fire had broken out but had since been dealt with. Kenya’s Inspector General of Police Hillary Mutyambai said officers were on high alert after the attack.

An internal police report cited AP said two aircraft, two American helicopters and multiple American vehicles were destroyed at the airstrip. The type of aircraft involved was not immediately clear.

U.S. military officials confirmed the attack and said U.S. and Kenyan forces had repelled the Al-Shabaab fighters.

“Working alongside our Kenyan partners, the airstrip is cleared and is still in the process of being fully secured,” said the US Africa Command (AFRICOM) in a statement.

The nearby civilian airport at Marsa Bay, which brings tourists visiting Lamu Island is a UNESCO World Heritage site, was closed for several hours after the incident, according to the civil aviation authority.

Al-Shabaab had announced in a statement it had “successfully stormed the heavily fortified military base and had now control of part of the base.”

**Civilspedia Team - Shankar IAS Academy**

P 12 → T; H

P 14 → C; D; B

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**News**

- Military base used by U.S. forces in Kenya - attacked by Al-Shabaab

**Al-Shabaab**

- Al-Qaeda linked terrorist group
- mainly operating in Somalia
- trying to overthrow the Somalia’s Government
- wants to turn Somalia into a fundamentalist Islamic state

**Geography of Somalia**

- located in the Horn of Africa
- Equator passes through Somalia
Geography of Kenya

- Kenya is positioned on the equator on Africa's east coast

- Shares borders with 5 Countries
  - South Sudan - Northwest
  - Ethiopia - North
  - Somalia - Northeast
  - Tanzania - South
  - Uganda - West

Lamu Old Town, Lamu Island, Kenya

- Situated in Kenya (close to Somalia)
- UNESCO World Heritage Site (Cultural) - 2001
- Oldest & best preserved living settlement on East African Coast
- Buildings and architecture are best preserved and carries a long history that represents the development of Swahili technology

Swahili Settlement and Culture

- Language-based culture on the eastern coast of Africa
- Swahili - National language of Tanzania and Kenya
- Around 9th Century A.D., Africans, Arabs & Persians who lived & traded on the Swahili coast developed a lingua franca - “Swahili or Kishwahili”
*Also developed the distinctive Swahili culture, art and architectural styles

Eg: Lamu Old Town in Kenya

- built in coral stone and mangrove timber
- structural forms like inner courtyard, verandas and elaborately carved wooden doors
- had become a significant centre for the study of Islamic & Swahili cultures

(ii)

to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;

(iv)

to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;

(vi)

to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to “UNESCO World Heritage Sites”.

1. Lamu Old Town in Kenya was included into the World Heritage Sites list as a Natural Heritage Site.
2. Khangchendzonga National Park is the only site which was included as a Mixed Heritage site in the world.

Which among the above statement(s) is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both are correct
d) Both are incorrect

India faces a year of tough trade talks

After RCEP walkout, govt. to focus on renegotiating FTAs, bilateral deals in 2020

Chennai, March 2020

After walking out of negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement in December, officials said it would continue to exist for trade agreements (FTAs) and re-double efforts to conclude other trade negotiations. The task is likely to swamp negotiators of both the Commerce and Industries and External Affairs Ministries in 2020.

To begin with, the RCEP walkout is not over to many yet, as the other 15 countries, including 10 ASEAN members and their FTA partners China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea, will complete legal reviews by June and are only expected to sign the deal at November 2020.

In the interim, many countries, most notably Japan, Australia and even China...
News

* Renegotiating FTAs, bilateral deals in 2020
* Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)
* 3rd RCEP Summit @ Bangkok, Thailand
* India decided not to sign the deal till the concerns raised are resolved
  1. to protect its economy from the flooding of cheap imports from China
  2. opening service sector
  3. issues related to rules of origin
  4. measures to protect Indian farmers etc.

RCEP deal is expected to be signed by remaining member nations by November 2020

EU-India

Broad-Based (Bilateral) Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)

* It covers trade in Goods and Services, Investment, Sanitary and phytosanitary measures, rules of origin, Intellectual Property Rights etc.
* EU-India Summit is expected to be held at Brussels, Belgium in March 2020

Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)

* Trade preference programme of the United States
* GSP benefits to Indian exporters withdrawn w.e.f 5th June 2019
* U.S. Pharmaceutical industry is demanding “trade margin rationalisation” for their medical products in return to restoring GSP benefits to India

SAARC

* South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
* India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Afghanistan
* SAFTA (South Asian Free Trade Area) came into enforcement in 2006

Civilspedia Team - Shankar IAS Academy
Previous Year Question – Prelims 2017

Q. “Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)” is sometimes seen in the news in the context of negotiations held between India and

a) European Union
b) Gulf Cooperation Council
c) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
d) Shanghai Cooperation Organization
Indian Science Congress (ISC)

* Held every year by the Indian Science Congress Association, since 1914
* 101st ISC → Bengaluru

Author’s Views on ISC

* Working of ISC at present
  - Exchanging of scientific ideas → ‘Science Mela’
  - Lectures of Nobel Laureates and Indian-origin scientists to school & college students
  - Displaying science projects & innovation of school children
  - Displaying scientific works of national labs/institutions

Pseudoscience

→ More focus on pseudoscience instead of interesting scientific ideas or demonstrations
  - Mixing mythology and science
  - Publicizing pseudoscience

Such focus has made ISC to lose its public image

Way Forward

→ New models of taking science to public
  - Mixing science and art
  - Interactive displays

→ Rebirth for ISC required
**News**

- Central govt plans to introduce Scientific Social Responsibility
  - Researchers working on a science project funded by any of the ministries under C.Govt will have to undertake activities to popularise science & make it more accessible to public
  - Plans to make SSR mandatory
  - Plans to include SSR activities in the outcome reports

**Draft SSR Policy (Ministry of Sci & Tech, GoI)**

Scientific Social Responsibility

The ethical obligation of knowledge workers in all fields of science and technology to voluntarily contribute their knowledge and resources to the widest spectrum of stakeholders in society, in a spirit of service and conscious reciprocity.

The main objective of SSR policy is to harness the voluntary potential that is latent in the country’s scientific community to strengthen science and society linkages so as to make S&T ecosystem vibrant. This primarily involves bridging science-society, science-science and society-science gaps, thereby bringing trust, partnership and responsibility of science at an accelerated pace towards achieving social goals.
**Practice Question – Mains**

GS II/ GS-III

Q. ‘Scientific community always has the ethical obligation of ‘giving back’ to the less endowed stakeholders of science, technology and innovation as well as society at large’. In the context of the above statement, what do you mean by ‘Scientific Social Responsibility’? Do you think that the Government must enforce ‘scientific social responsibility’ for the social development of the country? Comment. (150 words, 10 marks)

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**Practice Question – Prelims**

Q. Which of the following statements best define ‘Scientific Social Responsibility’?

a) Social accountability of a business entity for the welfare of the nation

b) Ethical obligation of the scientific community towards the society for the social development of the nation

c) Responsibility and accountability of the scientific community for the economic development of the nation

d) Ethical obligation of the private scientific companies to be accountable to the government.
Army to sign MoU for 7.5 lakh AK-203 assault rifles

They will be manufactured by an Indo-Russian joint venture

RISAKAR PEERI
NEW DELHI

The Army is likely to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a month for the procurement of over 7.5 lakh AK-203 assault rifles, which are to be manufactured locally by an Indo-Russian joint venture (JV), a Defence Source said.

The Ministry has already floated a Request For Proposal for the supply of 6.71 lakh rifles. “About 1 lakh rifles will be manufactured in Russia and the remaining will be manufactured by the JV in India. The MoU should be signed in a month,” an official said.

The rifles will be manufactured by the Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh. The facility is being set up by the Ordnance Factories Board from the Indian side, and Rosoboron Exports and Kalashnikov on the Russian side.

The Army has appointed Major General Sanjeev Sengar as the Chief Executive Officer of IRRPL.

In addition to the AK203, the Army recently began inducting the first batch of 10,000 INS76/78 assault rifles.

The force has been looking to replace the indigenous INSAS rifles, which are currently in use, with modern rifles.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies-II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

PAPER-IV


- Science and Technology—developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

Indo-Russian Joint Venture

- Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL)
- In Korwa, Uttar Pradesh
- ports
  - Ordnance Factories Board (50.5%)
  - Rosoboron Exports, Concern Kalashnikov (49.5%)

Ordnance Factories Board

- Engaged in production, testing, logistics, R&D etc of defence hardwares and equipment

Ensure self-reliance in equipping armed forces with state of the art equipment

under Dept. of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence

Army likely to sign MoU to procure 7.5 lakh AK-203 assault rifles

INSAS - Indian Small Arms System → Since 1994
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Ordnance Factories Board (OFB).

1. Its objective is to ensure self-reliance in equipping the armed forces with state of the art battlefield equipment.

2. It functions under Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Aerospace Laboratory (NAL)</th>
<th>Saras</th>
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<tr>
<td>* Established in 1959</td>
<td>* First indigenous light transport aircraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* A constituent of CSIR under Ministry of Science and Technology</td>
<td>* designed by CSIR-NAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Mandate</td>
<td>* Successfully tested in 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>→ develop aerospace technologies with strong science content</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ build small and medium sized civil aircraft</td>
<td>* considerable weight/drag reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ Support national aerospace programme</td>
<td>* high cruise speed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* lower fuel consumption</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* short landing and take-off distances</td>
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### Applications

1. For UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik)
2. Air taxi
3. Aerial Search
4. Disaster Management
5. Border Patrol etc.

⇒ Need for government commitment for procurement
* push for MSMEs
* In line with 'Make in India'
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to National Aerospace Laboratory (NAL).

1. It is the only Government aerospace R&D laboratory in India’s civilian sector.
2. It comes under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
**Practice Question – Prelims**

**Q1.** Which of the following statements best define ‘Scientific Social Responsibility’?

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d) Ethical obligation of the private scientific companies to be accountable to the government.

**Practice Question – Prelims**

**Q2.** Consider the following statements with reference to Ordnance Factories Board (OFB).

1. Its objective is to ensure self-reliance in equipping the armed forces with state of the art battlefield equipment.

2. It functions under Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to National Aerospace Laboratory (NAL).

1. It is the only Government aerospace R&D laboratory in India’s civilian sector.
2. It comes under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. Consider the following statements with reference to “UNESCO World Heritage Sites”.

1. Lamu Old Town in Kenya was included into the World Heritage Sites list as a Natural Heritage Site.
2. Khangchendzonga National Park is the only site which was included as a Mixed Heritage site in the world.

Which among the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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Previous Year Question – Prelims 2017

Q. “Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)” is sometimes seen in the news in the context of negotiations held between India and

a) European Union
b) Gulf Cooperation Council
c) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
d) Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Practice Question – Mains

GS II/ GS-III

Q. ‘Scientific community always has the ethical obligation of ‘giving back’ to the less endowed stakeholders of science, technology and innovation as well as society at large’. In the context of the above statement, what do you mean by ‘Scientific Social Responsibility’? Do you think that the Government must enforce ‘scientific social responsibility’ for the social development of the country? Comment. (150 words, 10 marks)
Practice Questions – Answers
06-01-2020
1. Option – ‘b’
2. Option – ‘a’
3. Option – ‘c’
4. Option – ‘d’

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