



Tejas Crashes Near Jaisalmer in Rajasthan | Rajasthan | 13 Mar 2024

Why in News?

Recently, a light combat aircraft **Tejas** crashed near **Jaisalmer in Rajasthan** during an operational training sortie. It is the first such incident involving the indigenously-built jet.

- The **pilot was ejected safely** and **no casualties** were reported.

Key Points

- The **crash took place around 100 km from the Pokhran desert** where a **mega war game 'Bharat Shakti'** witnessed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top military brass was underway.
 - Military sources indicated that the Tejas jet was to be part of the exercise.
- The Tejas aircraft is a **potent platform for air combat and offensive air support missions** while reconnaissance and anti-ship operations are its secondary roles.
- It is manufactured by state-run aerospace behemoth **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)**.
- In February 2021, the defence ministry sealed a Rs 48,000 crore deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd for the procurement of 83 **Tejas MK-1A jets** for the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

Bharat Shakti

- It is a significant **tri-Service exercise showcasing firepower** by the Army, Air Force, and Navy.
- In the exercise named **Bharat-Shakti at Pokhran Field Firing Range**.
- Only **indigenously developed weapon platforms and systems are included** in this exercise.
- Top officers of the three forces including **CDS General Anil Chauhan** participated in the exercise.
- The concept of **self-reliant India** was seen during this exercise.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

- It is an Indian public sector aerospace and defence company, **headquartered in Bangalore**.
- Established on **23 December 1940**, HAL is one of the oldest and largest aerospace and defence manufacturers in the world.
- It is governed under the management of the **Ministry of Defence**.