

**THEMATIC**  **#7**  
**CURRENT  
AFFAIRS**  
*for* **IAS PRELIMS 2024**

**INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS**

**THEME # 1**

**DEFENCE EXERCISE**

- **BILATERAL EXERCISE**
- **DOMESTIC EXERCISE**
- **MULTI-LATERAL EXERCISE**
- **MISCELLANEOUS**



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**IAS MAINS 2024**

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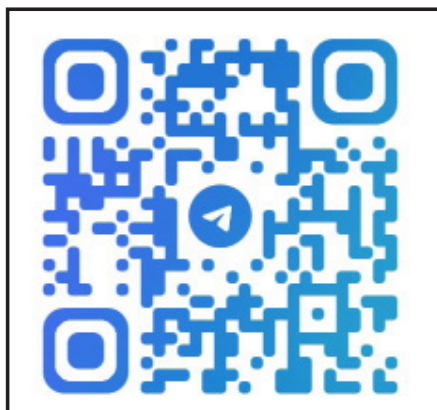
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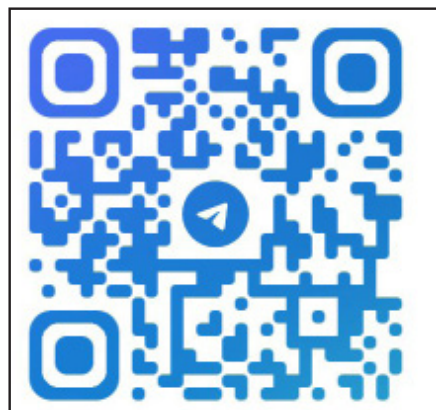
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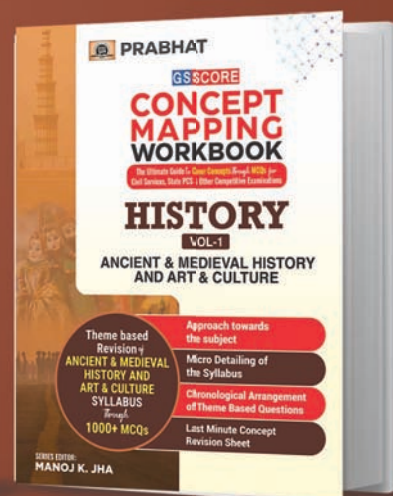
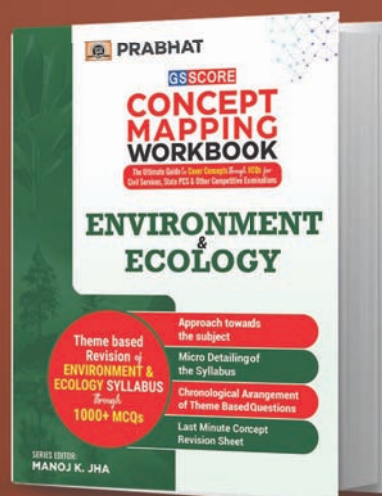
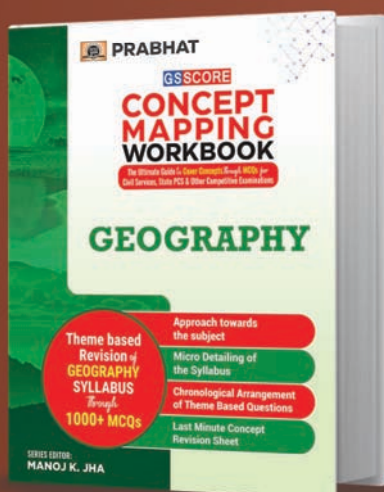
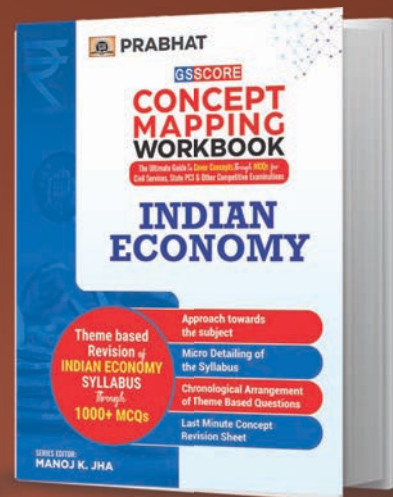
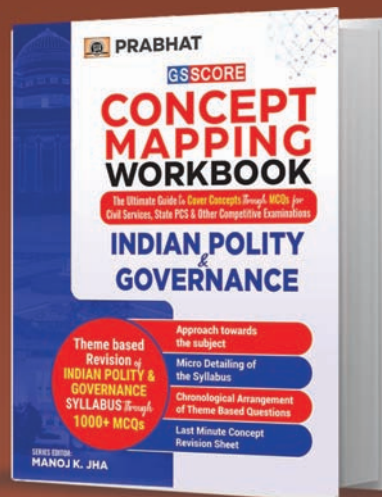
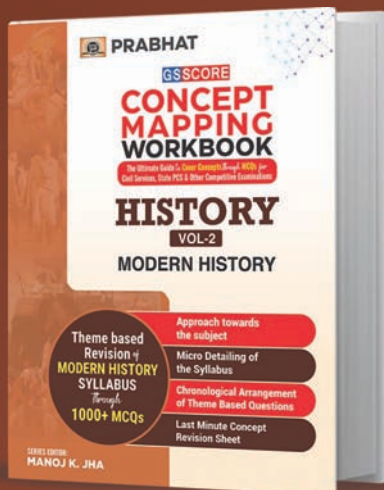
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Coverage of Essential Concepts  
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# BILATERAL EXERCISE

## 1. JAPAN-INDIA MARITIME BILATERAL EXERCISE – JIMEX 2022

### CONTEXT

The sixth edition of **Japan India Maritime Exercise 2022 (JIMEX 22)** hosted by Indian Navy commenced in the Bay of Bengal recently.

### About JIMEX Series

- **Started in:** January 2012
- **Focus:** maritime security cooperation.

### Highlights of JIMEX 2022:

- JIMEX 22 seeks to consolidate the high degree of interoperability that exists between maritime forces of the two countries, through complex exercises in the surface, sub-surface and air domains.
- The Indian Navy is being represented by three indigenously designed and built warships:
  - ▶ **Sahyadri**, a multi-purpose stealth frigate
  - ▶ **Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvettes Kadmatt** and **Kavaratti**
- Japan is represented by Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) ships Izumo, a Helicopter Carrier, and Takanami, a Guided Missile Destroyer.

## 2. EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022

### CONTEXT

The third edition of the joint military exercise "EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022" between India and Japan was conducted recently, at **Belagavi (Belgaum), Karnataka**.



## What is Exercise Dharma Guardian?

### Other exercises between India and Japan

- Veer Guardian
  - Dharma Guardian
  - **SHINYUU Maitri**– It is a bilateral exercise between the **Indian Air Force and the Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF)**.
  - **JIMEX**- It is a **bilateral maritime exercise between India and Japan**.
  - **Sahayog-Kaijin** – Joint bilateral exercise between the **Indian Coast Guard and the Japan Coast Guard**.
  - Malabar Exercise (India – US-Japan - Australia)
  - Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)
- **Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN** is an **annual joint military exercise** conducted between **India and Japan since 2018**.
  - **Aim:** To share experience gained during **various Counter Terrorism Operations in respective Countries**.
  - The exercise will include **house interventions drills, raid on terrorist hideouts in semi urban terrain, unarmed combat & close quarter combat firing** where both sides will jointly train, plan and execute a series of well-developed tactical drills for neutralisation of likely threats.

### About “EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022”

- **The 15th Battalion the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army and 30th Infantry Regiment of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF)** are participating in this 12 days long joint exercise.
- The military exercise will **focus on operations in Jungle & Semi-Urban/Urban terrains**.
- **The exercise aims at enhancing the interoperability and fostering mutual understanding between the two Armies**.
- **Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN** is an **annual military training event, being conducted in India since 2018**.

## 3. EXERCISE BOLD KURUKSHETRA

### CONTEXT

The Singapore Army and Indian Army participated in the **13<sup>th</sup> edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra**, a bilateral armour exercise at Jodhpur Military Station, India.

### About

- **First conducted in:** 2005



- Exercise Bold Kurukshetra is conducted under the ambit of the **bilateral arrangement** for the joint Army Training and exercises between the **Singapore Army and the Indian Army**.
- This exercise underscores the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between both countries and enhances cooperation between the two armies.
- Both defence establishments also interact regularly through high-level visits, policy dialogues, courses and other professional exchanges.

## 4. MARITIME PARTNERSHIP EXERCISE (MPX) WITH FRENCH NAVY

### CONTEXT

India and France conducted Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX).

### What is MPX?

- Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) is a multilateral event conducted by Indian Navy in which naval forces of foreign countries participate.
- This exercise is conducted as part of the Indian Navy's ongoing efforts to enhance its operational capabilities and strengthen its partnerships with friendly nations.

### Key-highlights

- Indian Navy's indigenously built guided missile frigate, INS Sahyadri participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French Navy (FN) ships FS Dixmude, a Mistral Class Amphibious Assault Ship and FS La Fayette, a La Fayette Class Frigate, in the Arabian Sea.

### INS Sahyadri

- INS Sahyadri is fitted with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, which makes her capable of detecting and neutralising air, surface and sub-surface threats.
- The ship is a part of Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam, under operational control of **FOCinC (East)**.

## 5. INDIA AND OMAN BEGINS EASTERN BRIDGE-VI AIR EXERCISE

### CONTEXT

The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) organised a **bilateral air exercise** named **Eastern Bridge-VI** at Air Force Station Jodhpur in Rajasthan.

- This was the **sixth edition** of the exercise.

## About the Exercise

- In this Exercise, Oman has deployed its F-16 Fighters whereas the Indian Air Force has fielded its Sukhoi-30 MKIs, Jaguars and Mirage-2000s.
- The last combat Air Force Exercise between the two countries, i.e. Eastern Bridge – V was conducted in Masirah, Oman.

## India – Oman Relations over the years

### Other Exercises

- **Naseem Al-Bahr** is the naval exercise conducted between both the countries.
  - **AL Nagah** is the joint bilateral exercise between the armies of two countries.
- 
- The **Sultanate of Oman** is a strategic partner of India in the Gulf and an important interlocutor at the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Arab League and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) fora**.
  - For Oman, India was the **3rd largest (after UAE and China) source for its imports and 3rd largest market (after UAE and Saudi Arabia) for its non-oil exports** in 2018.
  - Since 2008, Oman has been extending its support to Indian Navy's anti-piracy missions and Indian Naval Ships are regularly welcomed by Oman for Overseas Deployments.

## 6. INDIA, SINGAPORE KICK OFF SIMBEX MILITARY EXERCISE

### CONTEXT

The navies of India and Singapore began their annual maritime military exercise, which will involve drills in the southern South China Sea.

### What is SIMBEX?

- **First held in:** 1994
- The **Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)** is "the longest continuous naval exercise that Indian Navy has with any other country."
- This year's exercise from September 21-28 is the 30th edition of SIMBEX.
- It is a demonstration of a strong political and strategic commitment by both India and Singapore to strengthen their military and security ties.
- The scope and complexity of the exercise has risen substantially over the past two decades to include advanced naval drills covering a wide spectrum of maritime operations.
- The exercise exemplifies the high level of cooperation between India and Singapore in the maritime domain.
- It also highlights the commitment and contribution of the two nations towards enhancing maritime security in the **Indian Ocean Region**.

- **Indian Naval Ships Ranvijay (guided-missile Destroyer), Kavaratti (ASW Corvette), submarine Sindhukesari** and a **long range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I** participated in the 30th edition of **Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)** in Singapore.

## 7. YUDH ABHYAS

### CONTEXT

The 19th edition of the annual India-U.S. military exercise called Yudh Abhyas was held recently in Alaska.

### About

- Exercise Yudh Abhyas, conducted annually between India and USA with the aim of exchanging best practices, tactics, techniques and procedures between the Armies of the two nations.
- Participants:
  - ▶ **Indian army** contingent of 350 personnel, led by the **Maratha Light Infantry Regiment**.
  - ▶ **The U.S. side** includes the 1-24 **Infantry Battalion of 1st Brigade Combat Team**.
- **Theme:** "Employment of an Integrated Battle Group in Mountain/ Extreme Climatic Conditions"
- The previous edition (18<sup>th</sup> edition) of the exercise was conducted in the Auli district of Uttarakhand.

## 8. COPE INDIA

### CONTEXT

The sixth edition of the joint air exercise COPE India between the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and the **United States Air Force (USAF)** concluded at Air Force Stations in Kalaikunda, Panagarh, and Agra.

### About

- **Began in:** 2004
- Cope India is an **Air Exercise** between the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **United States Air Force (USAF)**.
- It began as a fighter training exercise held at Air Station Gwalior, India.
- The exercise has evolved to incorporate subject matter expert exchanges, air mobility training, airdrop training and large-force exercises, in addition to fighter-training exercises

### Key-highlights

- The exercise involved IAF's frontline aircraft, including **Rafale, Tejas, Su-30MKI, Jaguar, C-17, and C-130**, while the **USAF fielded F-15 'Strike Eagle' fighters, C-130, MC-130J, C-17, and the B1B strategic bomber aircraft**.
- **Japanese Air Self Defence Force aircrew** participated as observers.
- The exercise aimed to improve mutual understanding of air power technical applications, enhance cohesion in combat operations, and foster understanding of large force package air operations.

## 9. NOMADIC ELEPHANT 2023

### CONTEXT

India-Mongolia joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant 2023' commenced recently in Ulaanbaatar.

#### About:

- 'Nomadic Elephant' is an annual training exercise which is conducted alternatively in Mongolia and India
- This is aimed at exchanging best practices and developing interoperability, the Ministry of Defence.
- The primary theme of the exercise will focus on counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain under United Nations mandate.
- Soldiers of the Mongolian Armed Forces Unit 084 and the Indian Army's Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment will participate in the exercise.
- The scope of this exercise involves a Platoon level Field Training Exercise (FTX).
- The last edition of the exercise was held at the Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, and Himachal Pradesh in October 2019.

## 10. FIRST INDO-EGYPT JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE

### CONTEXT

The first joint exercise between the special forces of the Indian and the Egyptian Army, '**Exercise Cyclone - I**' conducted at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

#### About

- '**Cyclone - I**' is the first exercise of its kind bringing the special forces of both the nations on a common platform.
- The exercise aims to bolster defence co-operation between the two countries and focus on sharing professional skills and interoperability of special forces in desert terrain while undertaking counter terrorism, reconnaissance, raids and other special operations.

#### India and Egypt

- India and Egypt, two of the world's oldest civilizations, have enjoyed a history of close contact from ancient times.
- Egypt has traditionally been one of India's most important trading partners in the African continent.
- The India-Egypt Bilateral Trade Agreement has been in operation since March 1978 and is based on the Most Favoured Nation clause.

## 11. INDIA, UK HOLD BILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE 'KONKAN'

### CONTEXT

The annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and UK's Royal Navy was held off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea.

### About

- Konkan exercise is the annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the UK's Royal Navy.

### Key-highlights

- **INS Trishul**, a guided missile frigate, and **HMS Lancaster**, a **Type 23 guided missile frigate**, participated in 'Konkan 2023' and undertook multiple maritime drills to enhance interoperability and imbibe best practices.
- The exercises covered all domains of maritime operations, air, surface and sub-surface, and included gunnery shoots on surface inflatable target 'Killer Tomato', helicopter operations, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills, **Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS)**, ship manoeuvres and exchange of personnel.

## 12. AJEYA WARRIOR-23

### CONTEXT

The 7th edition of joint military exercise "AJEYA WARRIOR-23" between India and the United Kingdom was conducted at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom.

### About

- Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR is a **biennial training event** with the United Kingdom which is conducted alternatively in the United Kingdom and India, the last edition was held at **Chaubatia, Uttarakhand** in October 2021.
- **Aim:** To build positive military relations, imbibe each other's best practices and promote the ability to operate together while undertaking company-level sub-conventional operations in urban and semi-urban environments under UN mandate, in addition to developing inter-operability, bonhomie, camaraderie, and friendship between the two armies.
- The scope of this exercise involves a **Command Post Exercise (CPX)** at the Battalion level and Company level **Field Training Exercise (FTX)**.

## 13. SAMPRITI

### CONTEXT

India and Bangladesh recently held the 11th edition of annual joint military exercise 'SAMPRITI'.

### About

- Sampriti Exercise is a bilateral defence cooperation exercise between the armies of India and Bangladesh.
- It is seen as a part of Indo-Bangladesh defence cooperation.
- This exercise, alternatingly organised by both countries, signifies strong bilateral defence cooperation initiatives.
- With its inception in Jorhat, Assam in 2009, the exercise has witnessed ten successful editions till 2022.
- The exercise underscores the importance of enhancing interoperability between the two armies, sharing tactical drills, and promoting best practices.

## 14. SAMUDRA SHAKTI-23

### CONTEXT

4th edition of Indo-Indonesia bilateral Exercise Samudra Shakti-23 concluded in South China Sea.

### What is Samudra Shakti?

- The Samudra Shakti exercise, established in 2018, is a bilateral maritime exercise between India and Indonesia under India's Act East Policy framework.
- Exercise Samudra Shakti is aimed at enhancing **interoperability, jointness and mutual cooperation** between both the navies.
- **Key-highlights (Participation):**
  - ▶ **Indian Navy:** An Indian Navy Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft and Chetak helicopter.
  - ▶ **Indonesian Navy:** KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda, CN 235 Maritime Patrol aircraft and AS565 Panther helicopter.

### India-Indonesia Relations

- India, and Indonesia established diplomatic relations in 1951.
- Both countries are neighbours, India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands share a maritime border with Indonesia along the Andaman Sea.
- Relationship between Indian-Indonesian dates back to almost two millennia. India had established an embassy in Jakarta while Indonesia is having an embassy in Delhi.

- India considers Indonesia as a key member of ASEAN.
- Both the countries are among the largest democracies of world.
- They are member states of G-20, E7 (countries), United Nations and Non-aligned Movement.

## 15. 35<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF INDO-THAI COORDINATED PATROL (CORPAT)

### CONTEXT

The 35th edition of **India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)** between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was conducted recently.

### What is Indo-Thai CORPAT?

- The **Indian Navy** and the **Royal Thai Navy** have been undertaking CORPAT bi-annually since 2005 along the **International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)**.
- **Objective:** To reinforce maritime linkages between the two countries and with an aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean safe and secure for international trade.
- CORPAT builds up understanding and interoperability between navies and facilitates instituting measures to prevent and suppress unlawful activities like **Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU)** fishing, drug trafficking, piracy and armed robbery.
- It further helps enhance the operational synergy by exchanging information for the prevention of smuggling, and illegal immigration and for the conduct of **Search and Rescue (SAR)** operations at sea.

### Key-highlights

- **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari**, an indigenously built LST (L) and His Thai Majesty's Ship (HTMS) Saiburi, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate, along with Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies participated in the CORPAT along the IMBL in the Andaman Sea.

## 16. INDIA –SRILANKA ANNUAL BILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE (SLINEX-23)

### CONTEXT

The 10th edition of IN-SLN bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-23 was held at Colombo.

### About SLINEX:

- SLINEX aims to enhance **inter-operability**, **improve mutual understanding** and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.

- The Harbour Phase would include **professional, cultural, sporting and social exchanges**.
- SLINEX exemplifies the **deep maritime engagement between India and Sri Lanka** and has grown in scope over the years to strengthen mutual cooperation, in consonance with India's policy of '**Neighbourhood First**' and India's vision of '**Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)**'.
- The exercise **began in 2005**.
- The ninth edition of SLINEX was conducted off Visakhapatnam in 2022.

## LIST OF BILATERAL EXERCISE

Military Exercise	Participant
Vajra Prahar	India-United States
Yudh Abhyas	
Tiger Triumph	
RED FLAG	
AUSINDEX	India-Australia
Austra Hind	
Sampriti	India-Bangladesh
IN-BN CORPAT	
Varuna	India-France
Shakti	
Garuda	
Garuda Shakti	India-Indonesia
Samundra Shakti	
IND-INDO CORPAT	
IND-INDO BILAT	
Dharma Guardian	India-Japan
JIMEX	
Sahyog Kaijin	
SHINYUU Maitri	
Naseem-al-bahar	
Eastern Bridge	India-Singapore
SIMBEX	
Agni Warrior	
Bold Kurukshetra	India-Sri Lanka
MITRA SHAKTI	
SLINEX	



<b>Military Exercise</b>	<b>Participant</b>
Hand in Hand	India-China
INDRA	India-Russia
LAMITYE	India-Seychelles
MAITREE	India-Thailand
DESERT EAGLE	India-UK
Dustlik	India-Uzbekistan
VINBAX	India-Vietnam
Khanjar	India-Kyrgyzstan
Ekuverin	India-Maldives
Nomadic Elephant	India-Mongolia
Surya-Kiran	India-Nepal
AL NAGAH	India-Oman

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# MULTI-LATERAL EXERCISE

## 1. FIRST MARITIME EXERCISE HELD BETWEEN INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA

### CONTEXT

Indian Navy's indigenously built warship INS Sahyadri has participated in the maiden trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise with the ships and aircraft from the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and Indonesian Navy.

### About the Exercise:

- The trilateral exercise aimed to bolster the partnership between **India, Australia, and Indonesia**, fostering a collective effort to enhance stability, peace, and security in the Indo-Pacific region.
- It also offered an invaluable opportunity for the participating navies to share their knowledge and expertise.

### What is INS Sahyadri?

- INS Sahyadri is the third ship of the indigenously designed and built Project-17 class multi-role stealth frigates.
- It was built at **Mazagon Dock Ltd, Mumbai**.

### What are the other exercises between India and Indonesia?

- **Exercise Samudra Shakti:** It is a bilateral maritime exercise between India and Indonesia. It aims to strengthen the bilateral relationship, enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations between the two navies.
- **Exercise Garuda Shakti:** It is an annual military exercise between the Indian and Indonesian Army. It is conducted on a reciprocal basis and its first edition was conducted in the year 2012 in India.
- **IND-INDO CORPAT:** It is a bi-annual coordinated naval patrol exercise conducted along the **International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)** by the Indian and Indonesian Navy.

## What are the other exercises between India and Australia?

- **Exercise AUSTRALIA HIND:** It is a bilateral training exercise between the Indian Army and the Australian Army.
- **Exercise Pitch Black:** It is a biennial multilateral air combat exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) since 1981. The **Indian Air Force** had taken part in the exercise for the first time in 2018.
- **AUSINDEX:** It is a biennial bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy (RAN). The first edition of the exercise took place in 2015.

## 2. INDIA- AFRICA JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE 'AFINDEX-23'

### CONTEXT

The 2nd edition of joint military exercise "The Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-2023)" culminated in March 2023.

### About

- A total of 25 nations of the African continent with 124 participants and Indian troops from the **SIKH, MARATHA and MAHAR Regiments** participated in the multinational exercise.
- **Aim of the exercise** was to build positive military relations, imbibe each other's best practices and promote the ability to operate together while undertaking execution of **Humanitarian Mine Action and Peace Keeping Operations under the UN mandate.**
- This joint exercise aims to enable the armies to learn and adopt methodologies and tactics while conducting such operations.
- Further, the exercise also attempted to assist the forces in correct interpretation of Rules of Engagements while undertaking **Peace Keeping Operations.**

### Joint Maritime Exercise With African Countries

- In March 2019, India held its first-ever joint exercise with African countries, Africa-India Field Training Exercise-2019 (AFINDEX-19), which saw participation by 17 African countries. This was also held in Pune.
- However, both sides have developed maximum synergy in the maritime security domain keeping in mind India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All) with a special focus on Seychelles and Mauritius.
- In October 2019, Indian, Brazilian and South African navies participated in a joint multinational maritime exercise – IBSAMAR.

## 3. EXERCISE PITCH BLACK IN AUSTRALIA

### CONTEXT

The Indian Air Force contingent participated in Exercise Pitch Black 22 in Australia.

### Exercise Pitch Black

- Exercise Pitch Black is a **biennial three-week multilateral air combat training exercise** hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).
- It was conducted for the **first time in 1981** between different RAAF units.
- It **ensures that the training and integration of forces** that occur during this exercise directly supports the Air Force's ability to conduct operations.
- Exercise Pitch Black 2022 is the Royal Australian Air Force's most significant International Engagement activity with forces participating from a wide range of partner and allied nations developing and enhancing military relationships at all levels.

### Highlights of Exercise Pitch Black 2022

- **Participants:** This year's participants included **Australia, Canada, India, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the UAE, the UK and the US.**
- Exercise Pitch Black features a **range of realistic, simulated threats** which can be found in a modern battle-space environment and is an opportunity to test and improve our force integration, utilising one of the largest training airspace areas in the world.

The Australian Navy was part of the **Malabar naval exercise** hosted by India in November 2020 as well as last year.

## 4. COUNTER TERRORISM FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE (FTX) 2023

### CONTEXT

A small contingent of Indian troops participated in **Counter Terrorism Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2023**, a multinational exercise being held in Russia.

### Key-highlights of the Exercise

- 32 personnel from a battalion of the **Rajputana Rifles** have joined the **ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus Expert Working Group (EWG)** on Counter Terrorism Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2023.
- The Indian Army and the Chinese military participated in the six-day military exercise together.
- This is a joint military exercise that involves India's ASEAN partners.
- The current edition is being hosted by Russia, as a co-chair of the EWG, along with Myanmar.

## 5. INDIA BEGINS COOPERATION WITH BAHRAIN-BASED COMBINED MARITIME FORCES

### CONTEXT

India joined the **US-backed Combined Military Forces-Bahrain (CMF-B)** — a counterterrorism coalition aimed at protecting international waters.

### 35<sup>th</sup> Member

India becomes the 35th member of the maritime partnership that also includes **Australia, Bahrain, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, the Netherlands and New Zealand.**

- Pakistan is a full member of CMF.

### What is CMF-B?

- Established in 2001 with only 12 members, the coalition — then called the **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)** — was formed as a coalition of regional and international like-minded partners to counter the threat of international terrorism and uphold the international rules-based order.
- The **United States Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT)** was tasked with leading the then CMF in 2001.
- **Role:** Protection of trade routes, Counter-terrorism, Counter-piracy and Curbing Illegal Fishing
- **Headquarter:** The coalition is headquartered in **Bahrain**, along with the NAVCENT and the 5th fleet of the US.
- **Commander:** U.S. Navy Vice Admiral
  - ▶ U.S. Navy Vice Admiral, who also serves as Commander US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and US Navy Fifth Fleet. All four commands are co-located at US Naval Support Activity Bahrain. In the immediate neighbourhood.
- **Deputy Commander:** commodore of the United Kingdom's Royal Navy.

#### It is comprised of four task forces:

- CTF 150 (maritime security and counter-terrorism)
- CTF 151 (counter-piracy)
- CTF 152 (Arabian Gulf security and cooperation)
- CTF 153 (Maritime security in the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden)

## 6. IONS MARITIME EXERCISE 2022 (IMEX 22)

### CONTEXT

The maiden edition of **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22)** was conducted at Goa recently.

## About IONS MARITIME EXERCISE 2022 (IMEX 22):

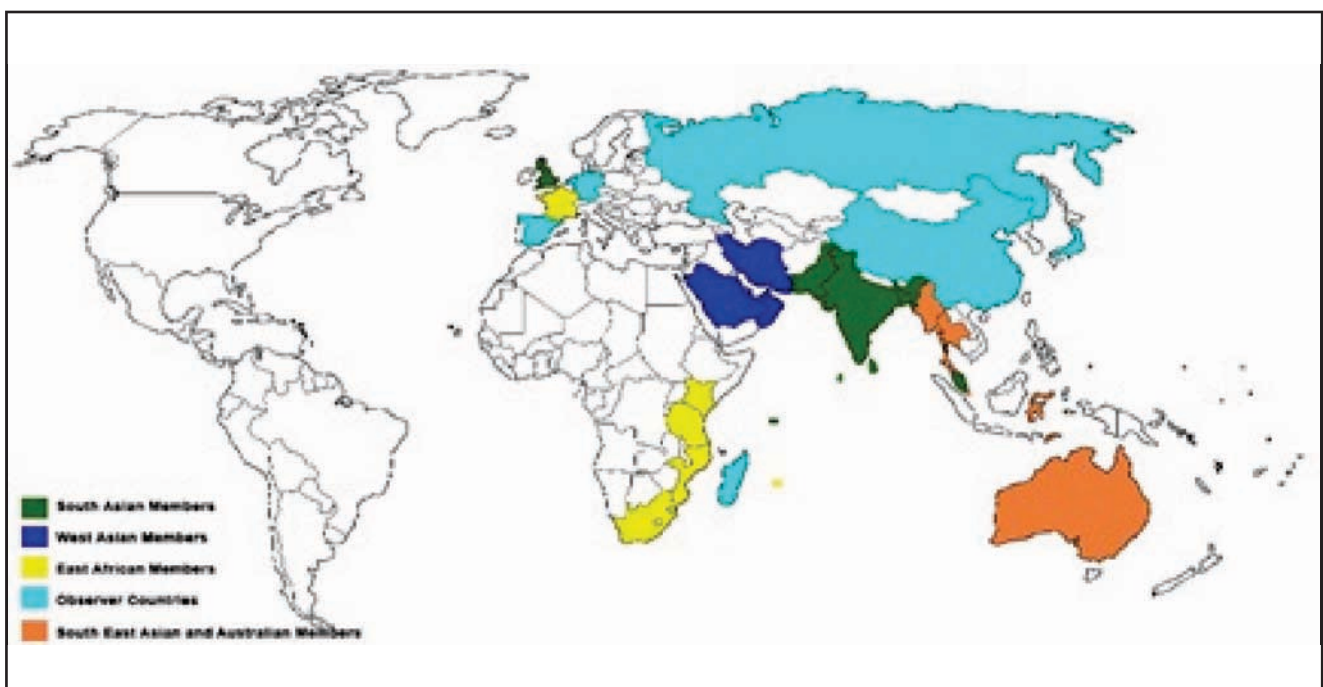
- The aim of the exercise was to enhance interoperability in **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations** among member navies.
- The exercise witnessed participation of 15 out of the 25 member nations of IONS.
- The participation included warships, Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft and helicopters from the Navies of **Bangladesh, France, India and Iran.**
- The exercise is seen as a significant stepping stone for regional navies to collaborate and respond collectively to natural disasters in the region and paves way for further strengthening regional cooperation.

## About Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):

- The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), established in 2007, is a **premier forum** for cooperation and collaboration among navies of littoral states of the **Indian Ocean Region.**
- The forum has enabled discussions on regional maritime issues, promoted friendly relationships, and significantly improved maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.

## Members:

- IONS include 24 member nations that touch or lie within the IOR, and 8 observer nations.
- The members have been geographically grouped into the following four sub-regions:
  - ▶ **South Asian Littorals:** Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom (British Indian Ocean Territory)
  - ▶ **West Asian Littorals:** Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates
  - ▶ **East African Littorals:** France (Reunion), Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, and Tanzania.
  - ▶ **South East Asian and Australian Littorals:** Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Timor-Leste.



## 7. EXERCISE COBRA WARRIOR 22

### CONTEXT

Recently, **Indian Air Force** participated in a multi-nation air exercise named '**Exercise Cobra Warrior 22**' at Waddington, in the United Kingdom.

### Key-points

- The Cobra Warrior Exercise is one of the **largest annual Royal Air Force exercises**.
- **Aim:** to train both pilots and other air specialists in planning and executing complex airborne missions.
- India participated in the exercise for the first time.
  - ▶ Other countries were the **United Kingdom, Sweden, Saudi Arabia and Bulgaria**.
- **IAF Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas** participated in the exercise along with fighter aircraft of the UK and other leading Air Forces.
  - ▶ Five Tejas aircraft flew to the United Kingdom.
  - ▶ IAF C-17 aircraft provided the necessary transport support for induction and de-induction.
  - ▶ The Indian Tejas jets were stationed at the RAF Waddington air base.
- The exercise involved **air-to-air operations** such as aircraft interceptions and mock dogfights and simulated ground attacks.
- This was the first-ever outing of LCA-Tejas in the International air exercise.

### About Light Combat Aircraft Tejas

- LCA Tejas is a **single-engine multirole light combat aircraft**.
- The **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme** was started by the Government of India in 1984 when they established the **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** to manage the LCA programme.
- LCA Tejas was designed and developed by India's **HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited)**.
- It replaced the ageing **Mig 21 fighter planes**.
- It is the second supersonic fighter jet that was developed by HAL (the first one being HAL HF-24 Marut).
- It is the lightest and smallest multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft in its class.
- It is designed to carry a range of **air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided, and standoff weaponry**.

### About the Organisations

- **Hindustan Aircraft Limited (HAL):**
  - ▶ It was started way back in December **1940** at **Bangalore** by industrialist **Seth Walchand Hirachand** with the support of an American aviation expert, William Douglas Pawley, who was the director of the erstwhile **Harlow Aircraft Company, California**.

- ▶ It was a quantum jump for India at a time when it was not even manufacturing an automobile or a bicycle.
- ▶ In January **1951, Hindustan Aircraft Limited was placed under the administrative control of Ministry of Defence, Government of India.**
- ▶ The government-owned company mainly engages in aerospace activities and is presently **involved in the fabrication & production of aircraft, design, helicopters, jet engines** & their replacement parts.
- ▶ It has many facilities scattered throughout India including **Bangalore, Kanpur, Nasik, Koraput, Korwa, Lucknow, Kasaragod and Hyderabad.**
- **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA):**
  - ▶ ADA is a **Society under the Department of Defence Research and Development, Ministry of Defence**, Government of India.
  - ▶ To undertake, **aid, promote, guide, manage, co-ordinate and execute research** in aeronautical science, design and development of various types of aircraft and rotorcraft.
  - ▶ ADA is responsible for:
    - ◆ Co-ordinated management of full range activities leading to development of advance technology flight vehicles.
    - ◆ Promoting development of a national base in Aeronautics.

## 8. EXERCISE SEA DRAGON 23

### CONTEXT

The third edition of Exercise Sea Dragon, the coordinated multilateral anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise for long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft, was held recently.

### About

- It is a biennial coordinated multilateral anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise for long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft.
- The Exercise aims to achieve high levels of synergy and coordination between the friendly navies, which is based on their shared values and commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- It is a coordinated anti-submarine warfare exercise held between the US, Japan, Canada, South Korea, and India.

### Key-highlights

- A P8I aircraft of the Indian Navy participated in the exercise.
  - ▶ The P-8I plane is a variation of the US Navy's P-8A Poseidon **multimission maritime aircraft (MMA)**.



- ▶ Its purpose was to safeguard India's coastline and exclusive economic zone.
- ▶ It is capable of conducting maritime patrol, intelligence, anti-surface warfare (ASW), anti-submarine warfare (ASW), and observation and reconnaissance duties.
- Along with this aircraft, the multilateral ASW also witnessed participation from P8A of the **US Navy**, **P1** from the **Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force**, **CP 140** from the **Royal Canadian Air Force** and **P3C** from the **Republic of Korea Navy (RoKN)**.

## 9. BRIGHT STAR- 23

### CONTEXT

An Indian Army **contingent participated in the multinational tri-services** joint military exercise '**Bright Star- 23**' in the Middle East.

### About

- It is a **biennial multilateral tri-service exercise**.
- Exercise BRIGHT STAR 2023 is a multilateral **U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) command-post exercise**, field training exercise and senior leader seminar, held with the Arab Republic of Egypt and other partner nations.
- It was initially conceptualised as a bilateral biennial training exercise between the US and Egypt during the **Camp David Accord** of 1977.
- The first edition of the exercise was conducted in the year 1980 in Egypt. From 1995 onwards the exercise was expanded for participation by other nations.
- The previous exercise 'Bright Star' was conducted in the year 2021 wherein forces of 21 countries had participated.

### Key-highlights

- 34 countries participated in the exercise and it turned out to be the largest ever joint military exercise in Middle East and North Africa region.
- It was for the first time that Indian Armed Forces participated in exercise Bright Star with a total strength of 549 personnel.
- The Indian Army was represented by a contingent from 23 JAT Battalion.

## 10. ASEAN-INDIA MARITIME EXERCISE (AIME-2023)

### CONTEXT

Two frontline warships of the Indian Navy (**INS Satpura and INS Delhi**) reached in Singapore to participate in the inaugural edition of the **ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise**.

## Key-highlights:

- The **ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2023)** aims to provide an opportunity to the Indian Navy and **ASEAN navies** to work closely with each other and conduct seamless operations in the maritime domain.
- The harbour phase of the exercise is scheduled to be held at the Changi Naval Base from, while the sea phase will be conducted in the **South China Sea**.
  - ▶ The South China Sea has been witnessing major military assertiveness by China in the last few years.
  - ▶ New Delhi's move to increase its maritime security cooperation with the ASEAN region comes amidst China's growing belligerence not only on land in **eastern Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control** but also in the **Indian Ocean, South China Sea, east China sea, Taiwan Strait** and elsewhere in the **Indo-Pacific Region**.
- With AIME-2023 India becomes the 4th ASEAN dialogue partner, after **Russia, China and the US** to hold the ASEAN+1 maritime exercise in which navies of the **Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, and Brunei**.

- **INS Delhi** is India's first indigenously-built guided missile destroyer.
- **INS Satpura** is an indigenously-built guided missile stealth frigate.

Both the ships are part of the **navy's Eastern Fleet** based in **Visakhapatnam**. The ships are fitted with **state-of-the-art weapons and sensors**.

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# DOMESTIC EXERCISE

## 1. EXERCISE PARVAT PRAHAR

### CONTEXT

Army chief **General Manoj Pande** visited the Ladakh sector recently to review **Exercise Parvat Prahara** and was briefed on operational preparedness by Commanders on ground.

### About

- The exercise used newly inducted all-terrain vehicles transported by Chinook heavy lift helicopters and **K9-Vajra howitzers**.
- **Aim:** The aim of the Exercise is to undertake **disengagement from Patrolling Point 15** in eastern Ladakh.
- The exercise comes as India and China are undertaking disengagement from **Patrolling Point-15** in eastern Ladakh.
- On the western front, **Exercise Gagan Strike** culminated with a fire power display of attack helicopters supporting deep operations by Strike Corps.
- **Responsible arm:** Parvat Prahara Exercise is conducted by the **One Strike Corps** of the Indian Army.
- The exercise involved high-altitude infantry personnel, **T-90S and T-72 tanks, mechanized infantry, K-9 Vajra, Bofors and M-777 howitzers, helicopters and aircraft**.

## 2. INDIA CONDUCTS NATIONAL CYBER DEFENCE EXERCISE

### CONTEXT

India's Defence Cyber Agency (DCA) conducted a week-long exercise to test resilience of India's cyber infrastructure from cyber-attacks based out of China.

## About

- All three services, including the **Army, Air Force, and Navy**, along with the **Defence Cyber Agency** participated in the exercises.
- It was aimed at assessing the durability of the country's critical civilian and military infrastructure with the threat of cyberattacks from China and other adversaries intensifying daily.
- The exercise was aimed to help India strengthen its digital infrastructure and make it more secure against cyber-attacks.

## The need

- India experienced one of the worst cyberattacks when China-based hackers pounced upon five servers of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi in November last year.
- Subsequent cyber post-mortem revealed that the malware designed to steal medical records had been implanted in the servers as far back as 2014.

## QUAD against China

- The QUAD countries of India, US, Japan and Australia are coordinating with each other to combat cyber-attacks originating from China.
- The leaders of QUAD countries also agreed to promote cyber awareness and help each other in capacity enhancement to combat cyber-attacks in a meeting on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in Hiroshima.

## 3. TROPEX 2023

### CONTEXT

The Indian Navy's major **Operational level exercise TROPEX** for the year 2023, culminated in the Arabian Sea.

### Key-highlights:

- It was conducted across the expanse of the Indian Ocean, over duration of **four months** from **November 2022 to March 2023**.
- The exercise took place in **Indian Ocean including the Arabian Sea** and the **Bay of Bengal**.

### About the exercise

- TROPEX (theatre-level combat readiness exercise) is the largest exercise of the Indian Navy.
- It sees the participation of all naval combat units, including **ships, submarines, aircraft, and units of the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard**.

## List of military domestic exercises (others):

Exercise	Participating Forces
Gandiv Vijay	Chetak Corps of the Indian Army's South Western Command
Vajra Prahar	Special Forces of India and the United States of America
Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022)	Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Army, and Coast Guard
Vayu Shakti	Indian Air Force

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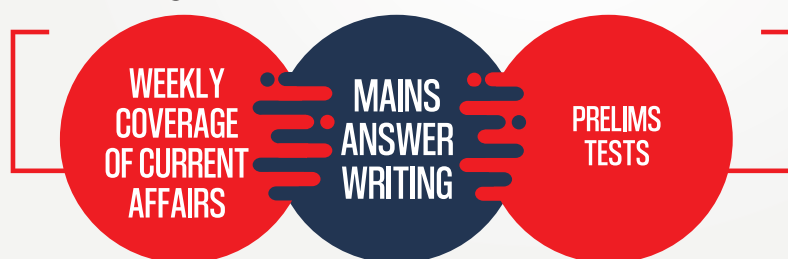
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# MISCELLANEOUS

## 1. MISSION SAGAR IX

### CONTEXT

Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Gharial**, a 5600 tons Landing Ship was deployed for the delivery of humanitarian assistance materials expeditiously as part of **Mission SAGAR IX**.

### About Mission SAGAR IX:

- INS Gharial delivered over **760 kg of 107 types of critical lifesaving medicines**.
- In line with Gol's vision of **SAGAR – Security And Growth for All in the Region** – the Indian Navy undertakes several deployments titled '**Mission SAGAR**' to assist friendly IOR littorals.

INS Gharial is a **Magar-class amphibious warfare vessel** of the Indian Navy.



## INS GHARIAL



**KNOW YOUR NAVY**

Indian Naval Ship Gharial, was commissioned on 14 Feb 1997 and since then she has been rendering yeoman service in amphibious operations of the Indian Navy.

The Indian Navy has a tradition of rechristening ships with the same name. The previous landing ship tank was commissioned on 17 Feb 1966 and served the Indian Navy well till her decommissioning on 30 Sep 1987.

The New



The Old



**INDIAN NAVY-MISSION DEPLOYED AND COMBAT READY**

- Since May 2020, Indian Navy has successfully concluded eight such missions, deploying ten ships to 18 Friendly Foreign Countries.
- With a steadfast intent of delivering a high quantum of humanitarian assistance to our neighbours, personnel from ships and shore organisations of Indian Navy have invested close to a million man-hours to bring succour to our friends, overseas.

## 2. BALIKATAN 2023

### CONTEXT

A combined force of U.S. and Philippine service members participated in a combined joint littoral live-fire exercise, the culminating field training event for Balikatan 2023.

### About

- Balikatan is a Tagalog term that means “**shoulder-to-shoulder**” or “**sharing the load together**”.
- Balikatan is the **largest annual exercise** between the two allies and 2023 marks its **38th iteration** and the largest iteration to date, with more than 17,600 participants.
- It provides an opportunity for the two militaries to enhance cooperation, increase capabilities and improve interoperability.

### Key-highlights

- During the exercise, U.S. and Philippine weapons platforms delivered coordinated fires on a target ship, a decommissioned Philippine Navy corvette towed into Philippine territorial waters.
- Bilateral weapons systems consisted of **U.S. and Philippine artillery, High-Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, Avenger air defense systems, AH-64 Apache attack helicopters, Philippine Air Force FA-50 Golden Eagle fighter-attack aircraft, F-16 Fighting Falcons, U.S. Marine F-35B Joint Strike Fighters**, and a **U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command AC-130 Spectre gunship.**

### U.S.-Philippines

- The Philippines is a key U.S. ally and the largest recipient of U.S. military assistance, equipment, and training in the region.
- The **U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty** was signed in 1951 and is America’s longest standing defense treaty in the **Indo-Pacific region**.
- Together, the United States and the Philippines are committed to promoting regional peace and stability.

### Value Addition

#### Category of India’s Defence Exercise

- **Domestic Exercise:** They aim to enhance internal coordination, promote cooperation between different branches of the armed forces, and improve overall readiness.

- **Bilateral Exercise:** These exercises are conducted between two nations, fostering cooperation and interoperability between their armed forces.
- **Multilateral Exercise:** It involves the participation of military forces from more than two countries, promoting collaboration and joint training among multiple nations' armed forces.

### Why repeat exercises?

- It is pertinent to note that since newer operational equipment keeps inducting and also the crew keep changing, there is thus a need to repeat the exercises every few years.
- Such international exercises give exposure to large-force engagements with dissimilar aerial platforms.
- They also expose the IAF crew to different tactics and flight techniques under electronic and cyber warfare conditions.

- This disaster is triggered by sudden release of water from glacial lakes.
- Accelerated melting of glaciers due to rising global temperatures is the primary cause of flash floods.
- Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) are natural disasters that can be catastrophic, triggered by the sudden release of water from glacial lakes. Understanding the causes, mechanisms, and factors leading to GLOFs is crucial for safeguarding vulnerable regions and populations.
- These are flash floods of extreme magnitude that occur when the natural dams, made up of ice, rock debris, or moraine, hold back glacial lakes rupture or are breached. These glacial lakes typically form as a result of the melting of glaciers in high-altitude areas.
- The water accumulates in depressions, often trapped by glacial debris or ice dams, creating a potentially dangerous situation.
- Several factors contribute to the occurrence of GLOFs, the primary factor being the accelerated melting of glaciers due to rising global temperatures. As glaciers shrink, they feed water into the glacial lakes, increasing their volume.
- Ice Dam Failure is another factor as when the volume of water in these lakes surpasses the capacity of the natural dam (often composed of ice or moraine), the dam can weaken or break, unleashing a torrent of water downstream.
- Another factor remains a major trigger event that could lead to this condition. Various triggers, such as earthquakes, avalanches, or landslides, can induce ice dam failure.

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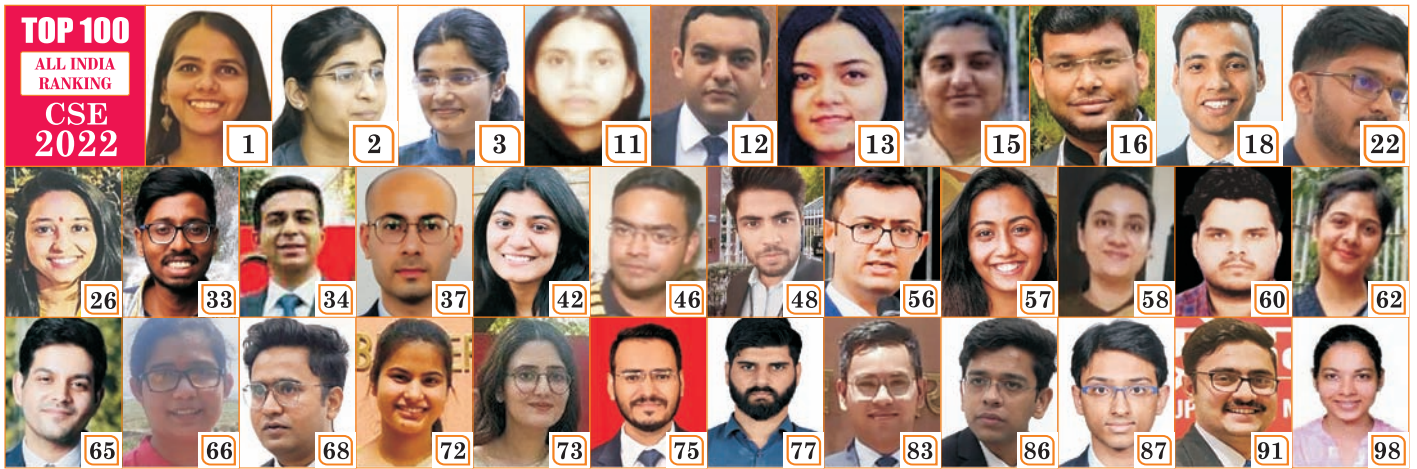


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