



20-03-2024

Exercise Tiger Triumph – 24

Why in News?

- The humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise named Tiger Triumph-24 between India and the US is aimed at enhancing readiness and cooperation between the two forces. The exercise is a part of the ongoing partnership between India and the US.



More About the News

- It is designed to improve interoperability for conducting HADR operations and refine Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to enable rapid and smooth coordination between the armed forces of both countries.
- From the Indian side, the exercise will include Indian Navy ships with integral helicopters and landing crafts embarked, Indian Navy aircraft, Indian Army personnel and vehicles, Indian Air Force aircraft and helicopters. Besides, Rapid Action Medical Team (RAMT) will also be participating from the Indian side.
- Besides, the US will be represented by US Navy Ships with embarked troops of the US Marine Corps and US Army.
- There will be different phases in HADR. The

first phase is Harbour Phase which is from March 18 to March 25 in Visakhapatnam. This phase involves training visits, subject matter expert exchanges, sports events, and social interactions among personnel from both navies.

- The second phase will be sea phase. It will start from March 25 and will culminate on March 31. It will be held in Kakinada. In this phase there will be participating ships, with embarked troops, will undertake maritime, amphibious, and HADR operations based on simulated scenarios.
- Earlier, the first Tiger Triumph-24 exercise between India and US took place for a period of nine days in 2019.

Activation of Emergency Landing Facility on National Highway 16

Why in the News?

- On 18 March 2024, Indian Air Force fighter and transport aircraft carried out operations on an Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) airstrip on National Highway 16 near Addanki in Bapatla district in Andhra Pradesh.

More About the News

- Sukhoi Su-30 and Hawk fighters successfully carried out overshoots during the activation, while An-32 and Dornier transport aircraft landed and subsequently took off from the strip.
- The activation showcased the high level of synergy and liaison between civil agencies such as National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), district administration, state police and the IAF towards conduct of complex multifaceted activities.
- Previously, such an activation was conducted on 29 December 2022.



- The 4.1 km long and 33 meter wide concrete airstrip has been constructed by the NHAI as per specifications provided by the IAF. While other airstrips are already operational in various parts of the country, this ELF in Andhra Pradesh has been recently operationalised in peninsular India.
- ELF highway airstrips enhance flexibility of air operations during contingencies and are invaluable assets during Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations in far flung areas.
- IAF, with Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) are working jointly for creation of ELFs at suitable locations.

NCW & Railway Protection Force Sign an MoU

Why in the News?

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) and the Railway Protection Force (RPF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi to prevent and combat human trafficking.

More About the News

- The overall objective of this MoU is to provide a safe and secure travel experience to women.
- RPF will ensure that the Railway network is not allowed to be used for any atrocities against women including trafficking.
- Railway Protection Force personnel deployed at Railway stations are playing a crucial role in the crime against women and children.

- 70 per cent of cases of human trafficking are related to women and Girl children.
- About National Commission for Women (NCW)
- The National Commission for Women (NCW) is a statutory body of the Government of India, generally concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting women.
- It was established on 31 January 1992 under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, as defined in the 1990 National Commission for Women Act.
- The objective of the NCW is to represent the rights of women in India and to provide a voice for their issues and concerns. The subjects of their campaigns have included dowry, politics, religion, equal representation for women in jobs, and the exploitation of women for labour.
- The current Chairperson of the NCW is Rekha Sharma (7 August 2018 till today), while Jayanti Patnaik was the first Chairperson of the National Commission for Women.

Vinay Kumar Appointed As Ambassador Of India To Russia

Why in the News?

- Vinay Kumar, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1992 batch, has been named as the next Ambassador of India to Russia.



More About the News

- Shri Kumar currently holds the position of Ambassador of India to Myanmar. The

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement that he is expected to take up the new assignment shortly.

- Russia, where elections were held recently, has been a longstanding partner of India, with diplomatic ties between the two countries serving as a cornerstone of India's foreign policy.
- The development of India-Russia relations has been a key pillar of India's foreign policy.
- India has longstanding and wide-ranging cooperation with Russia in the field of defence.
- India-Russia military technical cooperation has evolved from a buyer - seller framework to one involving joint research, development and production of advanced defence technologies and systems.

New Delhi Ranked World's Most Polluted Capital City

Why in the News?

- Bihar's Begusarai emerged as the world's most polluted metropolitan area while Delhi was identified as the capital city with the poorest air quality, according to a new report.



More About the News

- With an average annual PM2.5 concentration of 54.4 micrograms per cubic metre, India had the third worst air quality out of 134 countries in 2023 after Bangladesh (79.9 micrograms per cubic metre) and Pakistan (73.7 micrograms per cubic metre), according to the World Air Quality Report 2023 by Swiss organisation IQAir.

- In 2022, India was ranked as the eighth most polluted country with an average PM2.5 concentration of 53.3 micrograms per cubic metre.
- Begusarai stood out as the most polluted metropolitan area globally with an average PM2.5 concentration of 118.9 micrograms per cubic metre. The city did not even figure in the 2022 rankings.
- Delhi's PM2.5 levels worsened from 89.1 micrograms per cubic metre in 2022 to 92.7 micrograms per cubic metre in 2023. The national capital was ranked the most polluted capital city in the world four times on the trot starting 2018.
- It is estimated that 1.36 billion people in India experience PM2.5 concentrations exceeding the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended annual guideline level of 5 micrograms per cubic metre, the report said.
- Exposure to PM2.5 air pollution leads to and exacerbates numerous health conditions, including but not limited to asthma, cancer, stroke and lung disease.
- Exposure to elevated levels of fine particles can impair cognitive development in children, lead to mental health issues, and complicate existing illnesses, including diabetes.

Prabha Varma Selected For Saraswati Samman For The Year 2023

Why in the News?

- Noted poet and litterateur Prabha Varma will be awarded the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2023 for his verse novel Roudra Sathwikam.

More About the News

- Instituted in 1991, Saraswati Samman is one of the most prestigious literary awards in the country.
- It is given every year to an outstanding literary work written in any Indian language by an Indian citizen and published within the last 10 years.
- Born in Thiruvalla, Kerala, in 1959, Varma has excelled as a bilingual writer, with

exemplary literary works in both Malayalam and English.

- He has emerged as one of the most important voices in contemporary Malayalam literature, with his work reflecting a confluence of tradition and modernity.
- In a career spanning decades, Varma has to his credit more than 30 books, including a dozen collections of poems, three novels in verse, eight books on the contemporary sociopolitical milieu and literature, and seven collections of essays in criticism, among others.
- He has bagged more than 70 awards, including the National Sahitya Akademi Award and the National Film Award.

Anti-Piracy Operations Against Pirate Ship MV Ruen By Indian Navy

Why in the News?

- INS Kolkata, mission-deployed in the Arabian Sea, through the sustained high tempo of operations lasting over 40hrs, has thwarted the designs of the Somali pirates to hijack ships transiting through the region by intercepting the pirate ship MV Ruen.

More About the News

- INS Kolkata intercepted MV Ruen in the

morning of 15 March 2024, and confirmed the presence of armed pirates through a ship-launched drone. In a reckless hostile act, the pirates shot down the drone and fired at the Indian Naval warship.

- INS Kolkata undertook precisely measured actions while maintaining her position close to the Pirate Ship and also engaged in forceful negotiations, which resulted in the Pirates surrendering and releasing the pirate ship MV Ruen and its original crew present onboard.
- Due to sustained pressure and calibrated actions by the Indian Navy over the last 40 hours, all 35 Somali pirates surrendered.
- All 17 original crew members of MV Ruen were also safely evacuated from the pirate vessel without any injury.
- The culmination of the ongoing Anti-Piracy operation involving pirate ship MV Ruen in the Southern Indian Ocean Region (IOR) highlights the commitment of the Indian Navy towards reinforcing peace and stability, and also to thwart the resurgence of Piracy in the region.
- The Indian Navy remains steadfast in performing its role as the 'First Responder' in IOR.

