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Closing Ceremony of Exercise Tiger Triumph 2024

Why in News?

- The Closing Ceremony of the Bilateral Tri-Service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Amphibious Exercise between India and US, Tiger Triumph 2024 was held onboard USS Somerset on 30 March 2024.



More About the News

- The exercise signifies the robust strategic partnership between the two countries and was aimed towards sharing best practices and Standard Operating Procedures in undertaking multinational HADR operations.
- The Harbour Phase was conducted at Visakhapatnam from 18 - 25 March 2024, which included pre-sail discussions, Subject Matter Expert Exchange, Sports engagements, ship boarding drills and cross deck visits.
- The Sea phase was conducted from 26 to 30 March 2024 and it included units of both countries undertaking maritime exercises at sea followed by landing of troops at Kakinada for setting up of a joint Command and Control Centre and a Joint Relief and Medical Camp for HADR operations.

- The participating units from the Indian Navy included a Landing Platform Dock, Landing Ship Tanks (Large) including their integral Landing Crafts and helicopters, Guided Missile Frigate and Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Aircraft.
- The Indian Army was represented by one Infantry Battalion Group including mechanized forces and the Indian Air Force had deployed one medium lift aircraft, transport helicopter and the Rapid Action Medical Team (RAMT).
- Special Operations Forces from all the three Services also participated in the exercise and jointly undertook combined operations with the US counterparts at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada during the harbour and sea phase.

90th anniversary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Why in the News?

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) celebrated its 90th year on 1st April 2024 in Mumbai, where RBI governor Shaktikanta Das, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered their keynote presentations.



More About the RBI

- RBI- nation's central bank- was established in 1935 following recommendations of

Hilton Young Commission. It is governed by Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and it began operations on April 1, 1935 with Sir Osborne Smith as the first Governor, responsible for functions such as currency issuance, banking services for banks.

- The Central Office of the Reserve Bank was initially established in Kolkata but was permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937. The Central Office is where the Governor sits and where policies are formulated.
- Though originally privately owned, since nationalization in 1949, the Reserve Bank is fully owned by the Government of India.
- Over the years, RBI's role expanded to monetary management, regulation and supervision of financial system, management of foreign exchange, currency issuance, regulation and supervision of payment and settlement systems.

Katchatheevu Islands

Why in the News?

- Katchatheevu, a small uninhabited island in the middle of India and Sri Lanka, is making headlines again after an RTI reply obtained by K Annamalai mentioned that the Indira Gandhi government in 1974 handed over Katchatheevu island, located in the Palk Strait, to Sri Lanka.

More About the News

- Katchatheevu, a tiny uninhabited island spanning 285 acres in the Palk Strait between India and Sri Lanka, is spread over



1.6 km in length and slightly over 300m wide at its widest point.

- Situated northeast of Rameswaram, approximately 33 km from the Indian coast, it lies around 62 km southwest of Jaffna, Sri Lanka's northernmost point, and is about 24 km from the populated Delft Island, which is part of Sri Lanka.
- During the early medieval period, the island fell under the control of Sri Lanka's Jaffna kingdom, but by the 17th century, it had changed hands to the Ramnad kingdom based in Ramanathapuram, India, while under British rule, it was administered as part of the Madras Presidency.
- Since as early as 1921, both India and Sri Lanka asserted their claims over the island to decide maritime fishing boundaries.
- In June 1974, then-Prime Ministers of India and Sri Lanka, Indira Gandhi and Sirima R D Bandaranaike, signed an agreement to define the boundary between their nations in the waters from the Palk Strait to Adam's Bridge.

'Global Summit on Extreme Heat'

Why in the News?

- USAID, an independent agency of the United States government primarily responsible for administering civilian foreign aid and development assistance, organized a virtual 'Global Summit on Extreme Heat' on March 28, along with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

More About the News

- The summit brought together leaders and change-makers from across the world to discuss solutions and strategies to protect communities and workers from extreme heat".
- The year 2023 was the hottest on record. It coincided with deadly heat waves on nearly every continent, from Pakistan to Tunisia to Texas.
- Climate experts predict that extreme heat events will continue to increase in

frequency, resulting in more lives lost and an increase in risk of other climate disasters such as drought and wildfires.

- South Asia is particularly vulnerable to extreme heat. The State of India's Environment in figures 2022 brought out by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi and DTE showed that India recorded 280 heat wave days across 16 states in 2022 - the most in a decade.
- Extreme heat is defined as summer-time temperatures that are much hotter and/or humid than average. Because some places are hotter than others, this depends on what's considered average for a particular location at that time of year. Humid and muggy conditions can make it seem hotter than it really is.

Scientists Reconstruct History of World's Most Powerful Ocean Current

Why in the News?

- Scientists have reconstructed history of world's most powerful ocean current over last 5.3 million years and its link to global climate.

More About the News

- A new study that looked at its speed over the last 5.3 million years has found that it responds to the global climate by picking up pace or slowing down, with far-reaching consequences.
- An ocean current that connects the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific oceans has been speeding up in recent decades with a warming climate.
- The findings, published in journal Nature, suggested that the current speeding of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) does not bode well for the stability of Antarctica's ice sheets, which are already losing mass at an average rate of about 150 billion tonnes per year, contributing to sea-level rise.
- ACC plays a key role in regulating global

climate and is also the world's most powerful and primary means of inter-basin exchange of heat, carbon dioxide, chemicals and biology.

- Powered by continuous westerly winds, the ocean current circles Antarctica clockwise at about 4 kilometres per hour, carrying 165 million to 182 million cubic metres of water each second.
- So far, scientists know that the winds over the Southern Ocean, which encircles Antarctica, has gained strength by about 40 per cent in the last four decades.
- This, in turn, has sped up the ACC, causing relatively warm water from higher latitudes reaching the South Pole. In some parts, especially western Antarctica, these warm waters are melting the undersides of the ice shelves, according to scientists.
- In warm periods and when atmospheric CO2 levels rose, the flow speed increased by up to 80 per cent compared to the present and decreased by up to 50 percent during ice ages.
- In the future, the ACC is likely to grow stronger due to human-caused climate change. This could accelerate melting of Antarctic ice, the researchers warned.

