

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

09th & 10th April 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **Joint Military Exercise 'Ex KAVACH' concludes at Andaman & Nicobar Command**

➤ Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) conducted a large-scale Joint Military Exercise 'Ex KAVACH' involving the assets of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. The exercise, which began on February 23, 2023, concluded on April 07, 2023.

➤ The exercise was aimed at fine-tuning joint warfare capabilities & Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and enhancing interoperability and operational synergy between the forces.

➤ 'Exercise KAVACH' demonstrated the capabilities and preparedness of the Armed Forces to safeguard India's maritime interests and ensure the security of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The exercise effectively showcased the professionalism and synergy amongst the different components of ANC while conducting successful joint operations in a complex and dynamic environment.

➤ The tri-services joint military exercise was previously held in 2021. During the 2021 edition, troops of the joint forces executed multi domain, high-intensity offensive and defensive manoeuvres in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

❖ **C.R. Rao wins International Prize in Statistics 2023**

➤ The 2023 International Prize in Statistics, which is regarded as the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in statistics, has been awarded to Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, an Indian-American statistician.

➤ The prize, established in 2016, is presented once every two years to an individual or team that has made significant contributions to science, technology, and human

welfare through the use of statistics. The award is given out by a collaboration of five major international statistics organizations and recognizes major accomplishments by an individual or team.

➤ Rao will be honored with the prize, which carries an \$80,000 cash award, at the International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congress in Ottawa, Canada, in July.

➤ Rao's ground breaking paper, 'Information and accuracy attainable in the estimation of statistical parameters', was published in 1945 in the Bulletin of the Calcutta Mathematical Society, a journal that is otherwise not well known to the statistics community. The paper was subsequently included in the book Breakthroughs in Statistics, 1890-1990.

❖ **World Homeopathy Day 2023**

➤ On April 10th every year, World Homeopathy Day is celebrated to honor the birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy and a German physician.

➤ This day is dedicated to recognizing the valuable contributions of homeopathy to the field of healthcare. This year marks the 268th birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann.

➤ The focus of World Homeopathy Day 2023 is centered around the theme 'One Health, One Family'.

➤ The primary objective of this theme is to advocate for evidence-based homeopathic treatment for the well-being of every family member through the involvement of family physicians within the community.

❖ **Third edition of the Jammu Film Festival begins**

➤ In Jammu and Kashmir, the third edition of the Jammu Film Festival, sponsored by the J&K Tourism Department, began with a grand opening at Abhinav Theatre.

- The festival featured parallel screenings of 25 feature films, short films and documentaries from Iran, India, France and the United States.
- The inaugural section of the festival featured short films and a documentary from countries such as Iran, India, France and the United States. These included Nahid, Kav Kav, Fatih the Conqueror, Sandhanam and Liturgy of Anti-Tank Obstacles.
- The festival aims to promote tourism in Jammu and Kashmir and provide a platform to filmmakers to showcase their talent.
- About 25 feature films, short films and documentaries **were screened** on the first day of the festival. The festival features screening of 50 feature films, short films and documentaries from 11 countries.

❖ **Amit Shah launches Vibrant Village program in Arunachal Pradesh**

- Union Home Minister and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' at Kibithu, a border village in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Union Home Minister and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on 10 April launched the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' at Kibithu, a border village in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Under the programme, 2967 villages in 46 blocks of 19 districts along the northern border in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Ladakh were identified for comprehensive development.
- The Union Home Minister will also inaugurate nine micro hydroelectric projects of the Arunachal Pradesh government built under the "Golden Jubilee Border Lighting Programme" at Kibithu.

➤ Capital - **Itanagar**

➤ Governor - **Kaivalya Trivikram Parnaik**

➤ Chief Minister - **Pema Khandu**

❖ **FM Nirmala Sitharaman to attend Spring Annual Meetings of IMF-World Bank**

➤ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is on a visit to the USA to attend the Spring Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) - World Bank.

➤ Finance ministers and central bankers from around the world will participate in the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to take place from April 9 at the IMF headquarters in Washington DC.

➤ On the sidelines of the Spring Annual Meetings, Sitharaman will hold bilateral talks with her respective counterparts from G20 countries and heads of other delegations.

➤ Sitharaman and Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das will jointly chair the 2nd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, FMCBG meeting on April 12. About 350 delegates from G20 members, 13 invited countries and various international and regional organizations will participate in the meeting.

❖ **President of India takes a historic sortie in a Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft**

➤ The President of India, Droupadi Murmu took a historic sortie in a Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam.

➤ The President, who is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, flew for about 30 minutes. The aircraft was flown by Group Captain Naveen **Kumar**, Commanding Officer of 106 Squadron.

➤ The aircraft flew at an altitude of about **two** kilometers above sea level and at a speed of about 800 kilometers per hour.

➤ The President's flight in the Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft is a part of his/her efforts to engage with the armed forces as the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces.

➤ With this, President Droupadi Murmu becomes the third President and second woman President to take such a sortie. Earlier, former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam and Pratibha Patil have flown in Indian Air Force fighter aircraft.

❖ **Priyanshu Rajawat lifts maiden world tour title at Orleans Masters**

➤ India's Priyanshu Rajawat capped off an impressive week with a thrilling win in the final against Denmark's Magnus Johannesen to claim the men's singles title at the Orleans Masters.

➤ The Madhya Pradesh shuttler, who was part of the Indian team that registered an epic win at the 2022 Thomas Cup, saw off world number 49 Johannesen 21-15 19-21 21-16 in a 68-minute summit clash to grab the biggest title of his career.

➤ The two shuttlers, making it to the final after coming through the qualifiers, dished out some superb badminton, but the Indian rode on his ability to produce winners to secure the world tour super 300 crown.

➤ A year ago, Rajawat had returned early from Orleans when it was a super 100 event, but the tournament was upgraded to super 300 from this year, and the Indian made the most of the opportunity.

➤ While the women's singles title was lifted by Carolina Marin from Spain.

Other Winners:

Men's Double: **Chen Boyang & Liu Yi (China)**

Women's Double: **Rena Miyaura & Ayako Sakuramoto (Japan)**

Mixed Double: **Chen Tang Jie & Toh Ee Wei (Malaysia)**

❖ Theatre veteran Jalabala Vaidya passes away

- Jalabala Vaidya, legendary theatre actor and co-founder of the capital's iconic Akshara Theatre, died after a battle with respiratory ailments. She was 86.
- Born in London to Indian author and freedom fighter Suresh Vaidya and English classical singer Madge Franckeiss, Jalabala Vaidya started out as a journalist, writing for various national newspapers and magazines in Delhi.
- She was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi's Tagore Award, the Delhi Natya Sangh Award, the Andhra Pradesh Natya Akademi Honour, Honorary Citizenship of the City of Baltimore, USA, and in February, the Delhi Government's Varisht Samman for her lifelong contribution to the performing arts.

❖ PM Modi flags off Secunderabad-Tirupati Vande Bharat Express

- During his visit to Telangana, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Secunderabad-Tirupati Vande Bharat Express.
- The Secunderabad Railway Station is also set to undergo a major redevelopment, which will include a new iconic building and world-class amenities, at a cost of Rs 720 crore.
- The Secunderabad - Tirupati Vande Bharat Express, which connects Hyderabad with Tirupati. This is the second Vande Bharat train to be launched from Telangana in just three months, and it is expected to reduce travel time between the two cities by almost three-and-a-half hours.
- As part of his Telangana visit, Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the completed Secunderabad - Mahabubnagar project which involved the doubling and electrification of the railway line over a distance of 85 km at a cost of approximately Rs 1,410 crore. This project aims to improve the speed and connectivity of trains in the region.
- Additionally, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for AIIMS Bibinagar, which is being constructed at a cost of more than Rs. 1,350 crore, to provide quality healthcare services to the people of Telangana. He will also lay the

foundation stone for National Highway projects worth more than Rs. 7,850 crore to enhance road connectivity and contribute to the socio-economic development of the region.

❖ **India gives \$2 million to African Union Transition Mission in Somalia**

➤ India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ruchira Kamboj handed over the contribution of USD 2 million to the United Nations Trust Fund in support of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), reiterating New Delhi's commitment to peace and stability in Somalia and the Horn of Africa.

➤ Earlier, India had contributed USD 4 million to African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). India's Permanent Mission to the UN noted in a press release, "India recognizes the important role being played by the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) in providing an enabling security environment in Somalia, and in containing the terrorism perpetrated by Al-Shabaab."

➤ According to the release, India as an elected member of the UN Security Council has engaged constructively to ensure the smooth transition from African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to ATMIS in line with the security requirements of Somalia.

❖ **Bharat Biotech wins award at World Vaccine Congress 2023**

➤ At the World Vaccine Congress 2023 held in Washington, USA from April 3-6, Bharat Biotech was awarded the Best Production/Process Development award as a part of the Vaccine Industry Excellence (ViE) awards.

➤ Bharat Biotech, headquartered in Hyderabad, was the sole Indian company among the nominees for the ViE awards in multiple categories such as the best clinical trial company, best clinical trial network, best central/specialty laboratory, best contract research organisation, and best production/process development, among others.

- Bharat Biotech is known for developing the world's first intranasal Covid-19 vaccine, iNcovacc, and its intramuscular vaccine, Covaxin, which is used in India's public vaccination programme and has also been exported.
- The World Vaccine Congress is a major international conference focused on vaccines, covering the entire vaccine value chain from basic research to commercial manufacturing. It brings together experts from all over the world to share their knowledge and expertise in vaccine development.
- Bharat Biotech Founders: Krishna Ella, Suchitra Ella
- Bharat Biotech Date founded: 1996

❖ **India to bridge language gap with neighbours**

- Looking to expand its cultural footprint in nations with whom it has historical ties, including those in its immediate neighbourhood, India is planning to create a pool of experts in languages spoken in countries like Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan and Indonesia to facilitate better people-to-people exchanges.
- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has envisaged a special project called 'The Language Friendship Bridge', which plans to train five to 10 people in the official languages of each of these countries.
- As of now, the ICCR has zeroed in on 10 languages: Kazakh, Uzbek, Bhutanese, Ghoti (spoken in Tibet), Burmese, Khmer (spoken in Cambodia), Thai, Sinhalese and Bahasa (spoken in both Indonesia and Malaysia).
- India requires translators, interpreters and teachers in the languages of these countries with whom it shares a cultural history. Also a large number of people visit India for treatment from countries like Turkey, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Maldives, so there is an urgent need for a pool of translators and interpreters for facilitating their visits as well.
- The cultural body is in discussion with universities and institutes as well as experts offering foreign language courses in the country on the modalities of implementing the project. Among those being consulted are the foreign language

departments at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, Hyderabad's English and Foreign Languages University, Banaras Hindu University, and the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwa Vidyalaya at Wardha.

➤ In India, the language learning focus till now has been on European languages like Spanish, French and German, along with the languages of major Asian economies like China and Japan. Though a number of universities and institutes offer courses in these languages, only a handful teach any of the 10 languages on the ICCR list. Sinhala, for example, is taught at the Banaras Hindu University and the School of Foreign Languages (SFL) under the Ministry of Defence. The SFL also has courses in Bahasa, Burmese and Tibetan.

❖ Centre plans revamp of livestock insurance scheme

➤ The Centre is considering a comprehensive livestock insurance scheme modelling the Prime Minister's Fasal Bima Yojana, pulled up recently by a Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) for zero insurance coverage of livestock in 2022-23.

➤ There are initial proposals to waive off premium for cattle rearers from Scheduled Caste (SC)-Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities. At present, less than 1% of the country's cattle population is insured and the average yearly premium is 4.5% of the insured amount.

➤ A comprehensive livestock insurance will replace the present Livestock Insurance Scheme. The scheme is functional in 100 districts of the country. The Centrally-sponsored scheme will be managed by the respective State Livestock Development Boards.

❖ India's tiger population rises above 3,000

➤ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 'Tiger Census' data at a session on commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger in Mysuru.

- India's tiger population rose by 200 in the past four years to reach 3,167 in 2022, as per the latest tiger census. It is by far the largest in the world, boosting efforts to conserve the endangered species.
- India is now home to 75 percent of the global tiger population and also the largest tiger range country in the world.
- Surveys are conducted every four years, using camera traps and computer programs to individually identify each creature.
- The tiger population has gone up in the Shivalik Hills-Gangetic plains landscape, central India and the Sunderbans.
- In the past 100 years the tiger has lost more than 93 percent of its historic range and now only survives in scattered populations in 13 countries, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

❖ **Chennai to host Street Child Cricket World Cup**

- India will host Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023 (SCCWC 2023) to champion the rights of street children worldwide.
- It is organised by Street Child United and Save the Children India. The Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023 will welcome 22 teams from 16 countries to India.
- The tournament will take place at Amir Mahal, Chennai, the official residence of the Nawab of Arcot from September 20-30.
- This is the second edition of the Street Child Cricket World Cup, and the tournament is envisioned as a platform for street children to not just showcase their sporting talent, but to also advocate for their rights.
- The World Cup will see art workshops as well as other child-friendly sessions in which 168 street children from 15 countries will participate.
- National mixed teams of boys and girls will represent their countries for the cricket tournament and this includes teams from Bangladesh, Brazil, Burundi,

England, Hungary, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Sri Lanka, and Zimbabwe.

➤ Seven Indian teams representing different organisations from across the country will also participate.

➤ SCCWC 2023 is the second edition of the tournament. In 2019, this championship was held in London where eight teams competed, and Team India South emerged victorious after beating hosts England.

➤ In addition to the partnership between Street Child United and Save the Children the SCCWC 2023 will also collaborate with World Bank, ICC and the British High Commission.

❖ **N. Korea tested another underwater nuclear attack drone**

➤ North Korea tested a nuclear-capable unmanned underwater attack weapon called Haeil-2 from April 4 to April 7.

➤ During the underwater strategic weapon system test the drone cruised 1,000 km (621 miles) for 71 hours and 6 minutes and successfully hit a simulated target.

➤ On March 23, N. Korea claimed to have conducted the first test of the Haeil, which means tsunami in Korean, able to unleash a radioactive tsunami as it blamed US-South Korea exercises for a deteriorating regional security situation.

➤ North Korea has been regularly testing various weapons for months and ramped up its activity in recent weeks in response to joint US-South Korean military exercises.

➤ North Korea last year declared itself an irreversible nuclear power and Kim recently called for an exponential increase in weapons production, including tactical nuclear weapons.

➤ In recent weeks, it has unveiled new, smaller nuclear warheads and fired an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of striking anywhere in the United States.

❖ New Uranium isotope found by the physicists in Japan

- While studying the atoms of heavy elements, physicists in Japan discovered a previously unknown isotope of uranium, with atomic number 92 and mass number 241, i.e. uranium-241.
- The finding refines our understanding of nuclear physics. What shapes the large nuclei of heavy elements take and how often (or rarely) defines the boundaries of models that physicists use to design nuclear power plants and models of exploding stars.
- The discovery of a new neutron-rich uranium isotope is the first since 1979.