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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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National and International News

Exercise Bharat Shakti



Context:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a delegation of over 30 members observed the **'Bharat Shakti'** tri-service exercise in Pokhran, Rajasthan.

Key points:

- This exercise integrates the **firepower and manoeuvre capabilities of all three services**.
- It serves to exhibit the effectiveness of domestically manufactured defence equipment.
- Through realistic scenarios, it showcases the **Indian Armed Forces' ability to operate cohesively across various domains**.
- The exercise is in line with the **Aatmanirbhara initiative, underscoring India's self-reliance in defence**.

Key Equipment and Weapons Systems Participated:

Indian Army:

- Includes **T-90 (IM) Tanks, Dhanush and Sarang Gun Systems, Akash Weapons System, Logistics Drones, Robotic Mules, Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), and various unmanned aerial vehicles**.

Indian Navy:

- **Deployed Naval Anti-Ship Missiles, Autonomous Cargo Carrying Aerial Vehicles, and Expendable Aerial Targets**.

Indian Air Force:

- Showcased the **Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, Light Utility Helicopters, and Advanced Light Helicopters**.



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India was the top arms importer in 2019-2023

Context:

- India ranked as the world's top arms importer from **2019 to 2023**.
- Imports increased by **4.7%** compared to **2014–2018**, according to **SIPRI**.

Key points:

- European countries saw a **94% increase in arms imports from 2014–18 to 2019–23**, likely influenced by the **Ukraine war**.
- Russia, **India's main arms supplier**, had its share drop below half for the first time since 1960–64.
- Nine out of the top 10 arms importers were from **Asia, Oceania, or the Middle East**.
- **Ukraine became the fourth largest arms importer** due to major arms transfers from over 30 states in 2022–23.
- In India's FY 2024–25 interim budget, the Defence Ministry received ₹6.2 lakh crore.
- This included ₹1.72 lakh crore for new procurements, a 5.78% increase from the previous year.

Global Arms Trade Trends

- **Pakistan, the fifth largest arms importer**, saw a 43% increase in imports, with China supplying 82% of its arms.
- U.S. arms exports grew by 17%, while Russian exports fell by more than half (-53%).
- France emerged as the world's second largest arms supplier with a 47% increase in exports.

SIPRI Overview

- SIPRI, or the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute**, is an independent international institute established in 1966.
- It focuses on **research into conflict, armaments, arms control, and disarmament**.
- SIPRI provides **data, analysis, and recommendations to policymakers, researchers, media, and the public on international security matters**.



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Nyepi day



Context:

- Nyepi Day is also known as **Bali's Day of Silence**.
- It marks the **Hindu New Year according to the Balinese calendar**.
- The majority of Bali's population follows Hinduism.

Significance

- Nyepi Day is a holy day aimed at purifying the island from the previous year's negativity.
- It sets the tone for a positive and prosperous new year.

Observance

- Nyepi is observed with **silence, fasting, and meditation**.
- All lights and sounds are turned off, and all activities cease.
- The day is spent in silence, self-reflection, and meditation.
- Traffic comes to a halt, and the island appears deserted.

Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024

Context:

- **Announcement:** Ministry of Heavy Industries announces **Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024**.
- **Duration:** Scheme to be implemented from 1st **April to 31st July 2024**.
- **Total Outlay:** Rs. 500 crore.
- **Objective:** To promote **electric two-wheeler (e-2W) and three-wheeler (e-3W) adoption, and boost electric vehicle manufacturing in India**.
- **Eligible Categories:**
 - Two Wheelers (electric) (e-2W)
 - Three-wheeler (electric) including registered e-rickshaws & e-carts and L5 (e-3W)
- **Applicability:** Mainly for commercial e-2W and e-3Ws; privately or corporate owned registered e-2W also eligible.

Target Numbers:

- Aim to support 3,72,215 EVs including e-2W (3,33,387) and e-3W (38,828 including 13,590 rickshaws & e-carts and 25,238 e-3W in L5 category).

Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Impact:

- Promotes **efficient, competitive, and resilient EV manufacturing, aligning with the vision of Aatma-Nirbhar Bharat**.
- **Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP)** adopted to encourage domestic manufacturing and strengthen EV supply chain, creating significant employment opportunities.



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PM Gati Shakti- National Master Plan in Coal Sector

Context:

- Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi released “**PM Gati Shakti-National Master Plan in coal sector**”.
- **Aim:**To offer in-depth insights into the coal sector through the **geospatial layers available on the Ministry of Coal page of the PMGS-NMP portal.**

Key points:

- **Shri Anandji Prasad, Advisor (Projects), Ministry of Coal,** echoed that the release of the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan aims to **develop a smart, integrated, and sustainable coal logistics ecosystem.**
- This will ensure the **availability of adequate infrastructure, optimize logistics costs, and promote modernization through the adoption of information and communication technology.**
- The initiative aligns with the vision of '**Atmanirbhar Bharat**' by promoting cost efficiencies, minimizing disruptions, and fostering inclusive growth.

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