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National & 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 all three services' firepower and maneuver capabilities.
- 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.

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.



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- 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% export increase.

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.**

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 to purify 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.



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<p>Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. <p>Target Numbers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 the L5 category). <p>Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promotes efficient, competitive, and resilient EV manufacturing, aligning with the vision of Aatma-Nirbhar Bharat. ● A Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP) was adopted to encourage domestic manufacturing and strengthen the EV supply chain, creating significant employment opportunities.
<p>PM Gati Shakti- National Master Plan in the Coal Sector</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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.



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- 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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