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Weekly Current Affairs



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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

NAVAL EXERCISE INDRA-2025

- The 14th edition of Exercise INDRA was held in **Chennai**.
- It is a bilateral naval exercise **between India and Russia** that has been conducted regularly since 2003.
- This **14th edition** of the exercise included a wide range of activities and structured drills designed to enhance **interoperability** towards countering common **maritime threats**.

INIOCHOS-25

- The **Indian Air Force** (IAF) IAF took part in the INIOCHOS-25 air exercise in **Greece**
- It is a yearly multinational air exercise organized by the Hellenic Air Force of Greece.
- The IAF deployed Su-30 MKI fighter jets, IL-78 mid-air refuelling aircraft, and C-17 strategic airlifters, underlining its capability to rapidly mobilise and operate in complex joint environments.

National Gene Bank

- India is establishing its second National Gene Bank to enhance biodiversity conservation, aiming to preserve genetic material essential for future food security.
- India's first National Gene Bank was established in 1996 by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) in New Delhi
- A gene bank is a repository of genetic material, such as seeds, pollen or tissue samples, collected from different plant species in order to protect them from potential extinction and preserve vital varieties for future generations.

River Teesta

- Bangladesh plans to involve China in the River Teesta restoration project due to ongoing delays in the water-sharing treaty with India.
- Teesta river originates as Chhombu Chhu from a glacial lake Khangchung Chhu in Sikkim
- The major tributaries of the Teesta River include Lachung Chhu, Chakung Chhu, Dik Chhu, Rani Khola, and Rangpo Chhu on the left bank, and Zemu Chhu, Rangyong Chhu, and Rangit River on the right bank.

Exercise Tiger Triumph

- The 4th edition of Exercise Tiger Triumph was held along the Visakhapatnam coastline.

- It is a tri-service bilateral exercise between India and the United States, with an emphasis on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR).
- This exercise is part of broader efforts to deepen India-US military relations, with an emphasis on countering common security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

Bodh Gaya Temple

- Buddhist monks have started a protest at the Mahabodhi Mahavihara (Bodh Gaya Temple) in Bihar, calling for the repeal of the Bodh Gaya Temple Act (BTA), 1949.
- The temple is believed to be the place where the Buddha meditated and gained enlightenment. The original temple was built by Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE to mark the sacred spot, though the current structure was built during the Gupta period (around the 5th century CE).
- It is one of the four main Buddhist pilgrimage sites, alongside Lumbini (birthplace of Buddha), Sarnath (where Buddha gave his first sermon), and Kushinagar (where Buddha passed away).
- It has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2002.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Sivasubramanian Ramann's appointment as the new Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for a five-year term.
- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is a statutory organization created under the PFRDA Act of 2013.
- It functions under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)

- The Prime Minister has declared an ex-gratia payment from the PMNRF for the victims of a factory explosion in Gujarat.
- Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) was established entirely with public contributions and does not get any budgetary support.
- PMNRF accepts voluntary contributions from Individuals, Organizations, Trusts, Companies and Institutions etc.
- All contributions towards PMNRF are exempt from Income Tax under section 80(G)

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

- April 3rd commemorates the 345th death anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the founder of the Maratha Empire in western India, who passed away on this day in 1680 at Raigad Fort.
- Born in 1630 in Shivneri Fort near Pune, Shivaji was the son of Shahaji Bhosale, a Maratha general under the Deccan Sultanates. He was raised to become a leader and warrior from a young age.
- In 1674, Shivaji was crowned as the Chhatrapati (sovereign) at Raigad Fort, formally establishing the Maratha Empire. His reign marked the rise of a powerful Hindu kingdom in the Deccan region, challenging the dominance of the Mughal Empire in India.

Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025:

- The NITI Aayog has developed the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) using data from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) for the financial year 2022-23.
- The report objectively evaluates each state's fiscal health through a composite index, facilitating comparisons and benchmarking against best practices.

Article 311

- In State of Jharkhand vs Rukma Kesh Mishra, the Supreme Court clarified that Article 311(1) does not require prior approval from the appointing authority to begin disciplinary proceedings against a state employee, but approval is necessary for dismissal.
- Article 311 of the Indian Constitution deals with the dismissal, removal, or reduction in rank of a public servant and provides safeguards against arbitrary actions by the government. It is part of the Chapter II of Part XIV that outlines the conditions of service for civil servants.

Supreme Court of India:

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- The promulgation of the **Regulating Act of 1773 established the Supreme Court of Judicature at Calcutta as a Court of Record, granting it full power and authority.
- It is established under Article 124 of the Indian Constitution.
- Chief Justice of India (CJI): The head of the Supreme Court, responsible for administrative functions and the allocation of cases.
- Judges: The court has a fixed number of judges, which is currently 34, as per the recommendations of the CJI and the President of India.

Wat Pho Temple

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, accompanied by the Prime Minister of Thailand, H.E. Ms. Paetongtarn Shinawatra, visited Wat Phra Chetuphon Wimon Mangkhalaram Rajwaramahawihan, popularly known as Wat Pho on Rattanakosin Island, Bangkok.
- It dates back to the 16th century, but the temple complex as it stands today was renovated and expanded during the reign of King Rama I in the late 18th century.
- Wat Pho is also famous as the birthplace of Thai traditional massage.

BIMSTEC

- The 6th BIMSTEC Summit took place successfully in Bangkok, chaired by Thailand.
- BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) is a regional organization made up of seven member states: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- It was founded in 1997 with the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration.

Pamban Bridge

- The Prime Minister of India recently inaugurated the Pamban Bridge in Tamil Nadu, marking the country's first vertical lift railway sea bridge.
- Constructed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), the new Pamban Bridge replaces the old Pamban Cantilever Bridge, which was built in 1914 and decommissioned in 2022.
- It features a 72.5-meter navigational span that can be raised up to 17 meters, allowing larger ships to pass beneath it.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)

- India marks the 10th anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) on 8th April
- The Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana was set up by the government through Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Ltd or MUDRA Ltd to help small businesses. MUDRA is a subsidiary of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- The scheme facilitates micro credit/Loan up to Rs. 20 lakhs to income generating micro enterprises engaged in the non farm sector in manufacturing, trading or service sectors including activities allied to agriculture such as poultry, dairy, beekeeping, etc.

INS Varsha

- India is preparing to operationalize INS Varsha, a dedicated naval base for nuclear-powered submarines, by 2026. Located near Rambilli village on the eastern coast of Andhra Pradesh, it is in close proximity to Visakhapatnam.
- INS Varsha is a high-security naval base specifically designed for nuclear submarines, including both ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) and attack submarines (SSNs).
- Part of the long-term **Project Varsha**, the base aims to enhance India's submarine capabilities and bolster its sea-based nuclear defense. Covering 20 square kilometers, it is capable of housing at least 10 nuclear submarines.

7 New Products with GI Tag from West Bengal

- **Nolen Gurer Sandesh** – A winter sweet made with chhena (cottage cheese) and date palm jaggery, loved for its distinct taste.
- **Kamarpukur's White Bonde** – A classic sweet known for its rich flavor.
- **Murshidabad's Chhanabora** – A popular sweet made from chhena.
- **Bishnupur's Motichur Laddoo** – Famous for its soft texture and taste.
- **Radhunipagal Rice** – A special rice variety known for its aroma and quality.
- **Malda's Nistari Silk Yarn** – Valued for its smooth finish and shine.
- **Baruipur Guavas** – Noted for their taste and health benefits.

Digital Threat Report 2024

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has recently published the Digital Threat Report 2024 for the Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) sector.
- This report is a collaborative effort between SISA (Strategic Information Services Agreement), a global cybersecurity firm, CERT-In (under the Ministry of Electronics and IT), and CSIRT-Fin.
- It studies the growing cybersecurity risks faced by banks, financial services, and insurance companies in India.

Portugal

- The President of India is currently on a tour of Portugal.
- Portugal is bordered by Spain to the north and east, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west and south.
- Lisbon is Portugal's capital and economic and cultural centre

Ozone Pollution

- A study conducted by IIT Kharagpur has found that surface ozone pollution is significantly impacting major food crops, especially in the Indo-Gangetic Plain and central India.
- Ozone is a secondary pollutant formed by chemical reactions between nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight.
- Ozone is also a greenhouse gas and contributes to warmer temperatures on a global scale.

Mahavir Jayanti 2025:

- Mahavir Jayanti was observed on 10th April 2025 this year.
- **Mahavir Jayanti** is the celebration of the birth of **Lord Mahavir**, the 24th and last Tirthankara of Jainism. It is an important religious event for Jains and is observed with great devotion across India and by Jain communities worldwide.
- Lord Mahavir was born in 599 BCE in the city of **Kundalagrama** (present-day Bihar), and his teachings form the foundation of Jain philosophy, which emphasizes non-violence (ahimsa), truth (satya), compassion, and self-discipline.
- It is believed that Lord Mahavir attained moksha (liberation from the cycle of birth and death) at the age of 72 in 468 BCE at **Pavapuri**, near present-day **Rajgir** in Bihar.

World Homeopathy Day

- The World Homoeopathy Day is observed every year on April 10 to commemorate the Birthday of Dr. Hahnemann, the Founder of Homoeopathy.
- Homeopathy was founded in the late 18th century by Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, a German physician.
- It is based on the principle of "like cures like," meaning a substance that causes symptoms in a healthy person can be used in small doses to treat similar symptoms in a sick person. Treatments are made from highly diluted plant, animal, mineral, and synthetic substances.

Some Important Military Exercises:

- **Dharma Guardian** (India–Japan) Held annually, this exercise focuses on enhancing counter-terrorism capabilities and fostering mutual understanding between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.
- **Ex Cyclone-I** (India–Egypt) A special forces exercise aimed at improving counter-terrorism operations and tactical coordination between the Indian and Egyptian armies.

- **Maitree** (India–Thailand) A joint military exercise aimed at enhancing interoperability in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations under the UN mandate.
- **Ekuverin** (India–Maldives) An annual exercise focusing on enhancing interoperability in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations, as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.
- **Malabar Exercise (India–USA–Japan–Australia)**
A prominent naval exercise conducted in the Indo-Pacific region, focusing on enhancing maritime security and interoperability among the Quad nations.
- **Surya Kiran**
Surya Kiran is a joint military exercise between India and Nepal, aimed at enhancing cooperation, mutual understanding, and operational capabilities between the armed forces of both countries.

Jatra Utsav

- **The state of Tripura is set to host a Jatra Utsav, celebrating one of the most renowned traditional theatre forms of eastern India.**
- A popular folk theatre form prevalent in Bengal and Odisha, **Jatra** has historical roots in the rise of **Vaishnavism** and the **Bhakti Movement** in the 16th century, pioneered by **Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu**.
- This composite art form, often referred to as a "theatre of mixed means," combines **song, dance, acting, and recitation**. It depicts themes from **mythology, secular stories, humour, valour, heroism, and melodramatic events**.

Registrar General of India (RGI):

- The **Registrar General of India (RGI)** is a senior civil servant responsible for overseeing the country's demographic data collection and analysis. Operating under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, the RGI also serves as the **Census Commissioner of India**.
- The Office of the Registrar General of India (ORGI) is entrusted with Conducting the decennial Census of India, which is the most extensive source of demographic data in the country

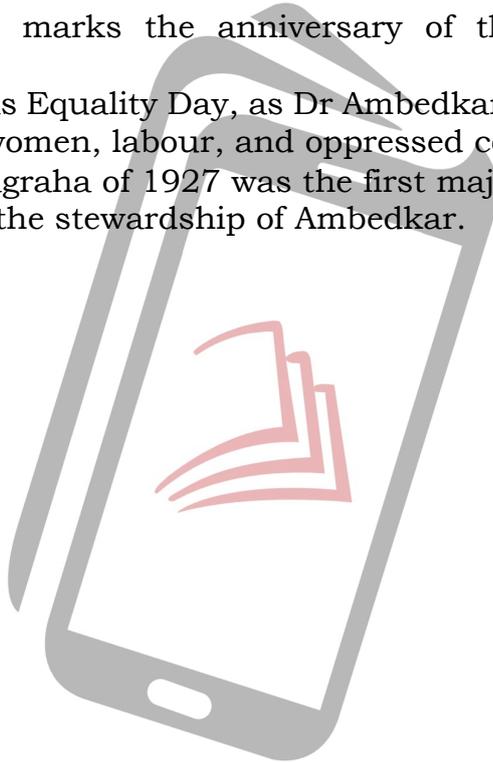
Morag Axis:

- Israel has successfully taken control of a new security corridor called the Morag axis.

- The Morag Axis is named after a former Israeli settlement that existed between Rafah and Khan Yunis before its evacuation in 2005. By establishing this corridor, Israel aims to create a third security axis, complementing the existing Philadelphi Corridor along Gaza's southern border with Egypt and the Netzarim Corridor separating northern Gaza from the rest of the territory.
- The name "Morag" refers to an Israeli settlement, considered illegal, that was established in the region between 1972 and 2005.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:

- 14th April 2025 marks the anniversary of the birth of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.
- It is also known as Equality Day, as Dr Ambedkar spent his life fighting for the rights of women, labour, and oppressed communities in India
- The Mahad Satyagraha of 1927 was the first major collective protest of the Dalits under the stewardship of Ambedkar.



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