

06th November 2024

VAJRA PRAHAR

The **15th edition** of India-US joint Special Forces Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR commenced at Orchard Combat Training Centre in Idaho, USA.



Key Point

- ❖ Initiated in 2010, the exercise will enhance combined capabilities in executing joint Special Forces Operations in desert/ semi desert environment.
- ❖ Aim of Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR is to promote military cooperation between India and the US through enhancement of interoperability, jointness and mutual exchange of special operations tactics.

Other Military Exercises involving India-USA

- ❖ **Bilateral Military Exercises:** Yudh Abhyas (Army), Cope India (Air Force), Tiger Triumph (Tri-Service) and Sangam (Naval Special Forces).
- ❖ **Multilateral Military Exercises:** Malabar (Navy), Rim-of-the-Pacific (RIMPAC, Navy), Milan (Navy), La Perouse (Navy), Pitch Black (Air Force), and Red Flag (Air Force).

Seventh Session of the ISA Assembly

The Seventh Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly being held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from 3 to 6 November.



Key Point

- ❖ The ISA Assembly will deliberate on initiatives of the International Solar Alliance, ISA that impact energy access, security and traditions with a focus on empowering member countries to adopt solar energy and mobilize finance to speed up solar deployment.
- ❖ The seventh session of the International Solar Alliance is going to be held under the presidency of India and the co-presidency of France.
- ❖ India was the only candidate for the position of ISA President.
- ❖ The Co-Presidency was contested between France and Grenada, with France emerging victorious.
- ❖ Ministers, mission heads, and delegates from 120 Member and Signatory Countries, along with partner organizations and stakeholders, will come together in the Assembly.

- ❖ During this three-day assembly, the major Focus will be on the initiatives to improve energy access, security, and transition.

About ISA

- ❖ The International Solar Alliance is an international organisation with 120 Member and Signatory countries.
- ❖ It works with governments to improve energy access and security worldwide and promote solar power as a sustainable transition to a carbon-neutral future.
- ❖ ISA's mission is to unlock US\$1 trillion of investments in solar by 2030
- ❖ With the signing and ratification of the ISA Framework Agreement by 15 countries on 6 December 2017, ISA became the first international intergovernmental organisation to be headquartered in India.
- ❖ Headquarter of ISA is situated in Gurugram Haryana

16th meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Union Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh delivered the national statement regarding the conservation of biological resources in the High Level

Segment of the ongoing 16th meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Cali, Colombia on 29th October 2024.



Key Point

- ❖ Minister of State for Environment, Kirti Vardhan Singh, launched India's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) at the 16th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 16) in Colombia.
- ❖ During the launch event, the Minister highlighted India's 'whole-of-government' and 'whole-of-society' approach in updating its NBSAP. The updated biodiversity strategy acknowledges environmental challenges and outlines strategies to address them.
- ❖ It addresses the challenges through ecosystem restoration, species recovery programs, and community-driven conservation efforts
- ❖ Updated biodiversity strategy focuses on the restoration of degraded ecosystems, protection of wetlands, and on the sustainable management of marine and coastal areas.

India's First Analog Space Mission

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has started the country's first analog space mission at Leh in Ladakh.



Key Point

- ❖ The move assumes significance as India is planning to send a human to the Moon in the near future.
- ❖ Analog space missions are field tests in locations on Earth that have physical similarities to the extreme space environments and play a significant role in problem solving for spaceflight research.
- ❖ Ladakh has been chosen for such a mission as the geographical features of the area – dry and cold climate, barren land, high-altitude terrain and extreme isolation – are considered to closely resemble Martian and lunar landscapes.
- ❖ The month-long mission comes in the wake of India's plans to set up lunar habitats, which could provide a base to launch interplanetary missions.
- ❖ The mission includes a compact, inflatable habitat named Hab-1, which is equipped with essentials like a hydroponics farm, kitchen, and sanitation facilities.

- ❖ It provides a self-sustaining environment, offering valuable data as India is planning long-duration space missions to the Moon, Mars, and beyond.

Namo Drone Didi Scheme

Government has released the Operational Guidelines of Central Sector Scheme Namu Drone Didi.



Key Point

- ❖ Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry has approved this Central Sector Scheme for providing drones to the **Women Self Help Groups under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission** with an outlay of one thousand 261 crore rupees.
- ❖ The scheme aims to provide drones to 14 thousand 500 selected Women Self Help Groups during the period from 2024-25 to 2025-2026.
- ❖ According to the guidelines, the Namu Drone Didi Scheme will be governed at the Central level by the Empowered Committee of the Secretaries of Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Department of Rural Development and Fertilizers.
- ❖ Eighty per cent of the cost of drone and accessories charges up to a

maximum of eight lakhs will be provided to the women Self Help Groups for purchase of drones.

- ❖ The Cluster Level Federations of Self Help Groups will raise the balance amount as loan under National Agriculture Infra Financing Facility.
- ❖ One of the members of the women Self Help Groups will be selected for 15 day training comprising mandatory drone pilot training and additional training for agriculture purpose for nutrient and pesticide application.

Short News

- ❖ Film and Television Institute of India, FTII's student film 'Sunflowers Were The First Ones To Know' has qualified

for the 2025 Oscars in the Live Action Short Film Category.

- ❖ New and Renewable Energy Minister Pralhad Joshi said that India has reached 90 gigawatts of installed solar capacity in its goal to attain 500 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030.
- ❖ Under the Amrit Bharat Station Redevelopment Scheme, 1334 stations are being redeveloped at a cost of one lakh crore rupees, of which construction is progressing in 1100 stations.
- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated Gujarat's largest waste-to-energy plant at Piplaj in Ahmedabad City.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has started the country's first analog space mission in which of the following places?

- (a) Leh ,Ladakh
- (b) Sriharikota
- (c) Bengaluru
- (d) Surat

Answer-A

2. Which of the following military exercise Held between India and the USA?

- (a) Garuda
- (b) Vajra prahar
- (c) Simbex
- (d) Shinyo matiri

Answer -B



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