

The Achievers IAS Academy

Patliputra colony, Near: Tennis Court; Patna. Contact: 8434931877, 7250667974

1. La Perouse exercise.



- Indian Navy Ships INS Satpura (with an integral helicopter embarked) and INS Kiltan alongwith P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft are participating,
- for the first time; in multi-lateral maritime exercise La Pérouse, being conducted in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region from 05 to 07 Apr 2021. The Indian Navy ships and aircraft will exercise at sea with ships and aircraft of French Navy (FN), Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and United States Navy (USN) during the three day exercise at sea.
- The exercise La Pérouse, led by French Navy, has participation by FN Ships Tonnerre, an amphibious assault ship and frigate Surcouf. United States Navy is represented in the exercise by amphibious transport dock ship Somerset.
- Her Majesty's Australian Ships (HMAS) Anzac, a frigate and tanker Sirius have been deployed by RAN for participation in the exercise while Japan Maritime Self Defence Ship (JMSDF) is represented by the destroyer Akebono. In addition to the ships, integral helicopters embarked onboard ships will also participate in the exercise.
- Exercise La Pérouse will witness complex and advanced naval operations including surface warfare, anti-air warfare and air defence exercises, weapon firing exercises, cross deck flying operations, tactical manoeuvres and seamanship evolutions such as replenishment at sea.
- The exercise will showcase high levels of synergy, coordination and inter-operability between the friendly navies. Participation by the Indian Navy in the exercise demonstrates the shared values with friendly navies ensuring freedom of seas and commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific and a rules-based international order.

2. Mega food park



- The Centre has cleared the state government's bid for the construction of a mega food park on the 78-acre land of Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA) at Motipur in Muzaffarpur district with an overall investment of Rs 403 crore.
- the just cleared mega food park project, the Centre and state government together would make initial expenditure of Rs 103 crore. Of the sum, the Centre would provide Rs50 crore as grant for the project.
- Tomar said Rs103 crore would be utilized on the construction of the common structure on the land. Following this, investors would pump in Rs300 crore in as many as 30 food processing units to be established there. Together, the two kinds of investments would add up to Rs403 crore, overall.
- it will create 5,000 work opportunities for the aspirants.
- BIADA had moved the proposal on the advice of CM Nitish Kumar for wresting the mega food park project for the state. While the Centre had earlier planned for the establishment of 42 mega food park units in the country. Of them, as many as 40 projects had already gone to different states and only two remained to be allotted.
- Of the remaining two mega food park projects, one has finally come to Bihar. It is a big heartening news for the people of the state,

3. Advanced Chaff Technology

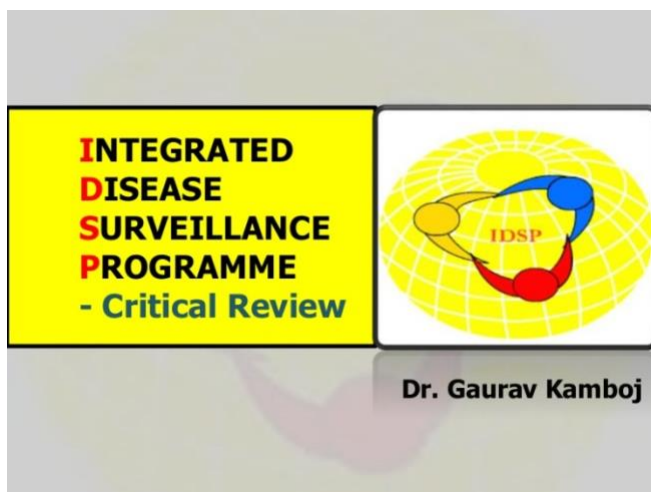


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- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard the naval ships against enemy missile attack. Defence Laboratory Jodhpur (DLJ), a DRDO laboratory, has indigenously developed three variants of this critical technology namely Short Range Chaff Rocket (SRCR), Medium Range Chaff Rocket (MRCR) and Long Range Chaff Rocket (LRCR) meeting Indian Navy's qualitative requirements. The successful development of Advanced Chaff Technology by DLJ is another step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- Recently, Indian Navy conducted trials of all three variants in the Arabian Sea on Indian Naval Ship and found the performance satisfactory.
- Chaff is a passive expendable electronic countermeasure technology used worldwide to protect naval ships from enemy's radar and Radio Frequency (RF) missile seekers. The importance of this development lies in the fact that very less quantity of chaff material deployed in the air acts as decoy to deflect enemy's missiles for safety of the ships.

4. Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP)



- The Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan virtually launched the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) here today, in the presence of Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey,
- The Integrated Health Information Platform is the next generation highly refined version of the presently used Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).
- India is the first country in the world to adopt such an advanced disease surveillance system. The new version of IHIP will house the data entry and management for India's disease surveillance program. In addition to tracking 33 diseases now as compared to the earlier 18 diseases, it shall ensure near-real-time data in digital mode, having done away with the paper-mode of working".
- Terming this as the world's biggest online disease surveillance platform, he stated that it is in sync with the National Digital Health Mission and fully compatible with the other digital information

systems presently being used in India. The refined IHIP with automated -data will help in a big way in real time data collection, aggregation & further analysis of data that will aid and enable evidence-based policy making, he explained. He applauded NCDC, WHO and all those who have been associated with this development.

- Dr Roderico Ofrin, WHO Representative to India stated that this refined digital surveillance platform will help to provide and connect data and move towards 'One Health' approach. He mentioned that the portal is a great resource for timely health response measures to be mounted; not only programming, but also in disease prioritization. He applauded India for this timely development.

5. Self-propelled railway track scavenging vehicle can replace manual scavenging .



- A self-propelled railway track scavenging vehicle may soon replace manual scavenging and cleaning that is still practiced to remove human waste lying on railway tracks.
- Despite the ban on manual scavenging since 1993 in our country, men and women are seen removing excreta on the tracks with brooms and metal plates. Once the garbage is picked up from the tracks, night soil, excessive dirt, oil, and other foreign materials is ineffectively cleaned with high-pressure water jets.
- Dr. Sharad K. Pradhan, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR), Bhopal, has developed a Multifunctional Railway Track Scavenging Vehicle with support from the Advanced Manufacturing Technologies programme of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India aligned with the 'Make in India' initiative. A national patent has been published for this technology.
- This self-propelled Road cum Rail vehicle equipped with dry and wet suction systems, air and water spraying nozzles, control system, and road cum rail attachment is multifunctional and easy to operate. A display unit is provided for real-time control of the cleaning under drastically changing environment. It requires only one person along with driver to carry out the automatic cleaning of the railway track.
- Both dry and wet garbage are collected in different tanks, and once filled, it can be decanted at appropriate local municipal garbage collection point. A joystick-controlled telescoping suction pipe is fitted to clear the slurry from the trench parallel to the track. The

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telescoping suction pipe can easily be placed at appropriate position in the side trench to suck the sewage slurry.

- As this is a rail cum road vehicle, it can be used as a material/garbage transport vehicle from track to road by Indian railways. It can also be used as maintenance/inspection vehicle and disinfectant spraying vehicle by Indian railways. In non scavenging mode, it can also be used as a transportation and inspection vehicle by Indian Railways.
- The proposed Multifunctional Railway Track Scavenging Vehicle (1) is a compact machine designed to resolve issues related to the cleaning of Indian Railway tracks (2). The vehicle is multifunctional, diesel engine-operated Road cum Rail (3) vehicle. The cleaning action is achieved by the combination of a dry suction unit (4) and a wet suction unit (5). This track cleaning vehicle is designed for quick and effective pick-up of all litters ranging from plastic bags, waste papers, crushed plastic bottles, beverage cans, plastic plates, plastic pouches, and human waste. Garbage which is sticky in nature or residuals can be pushed towards the drains running along the tracks by the high-pressure water jets (6), and controlled telescoping suction pipe (7) can easily be placed at appropriate position in the side trench to suck the sewage slurry. An insecticide unit (8) is placed at the back of the vehicle with insecticide spraying nozzles to kill insects, cockroaches, and rats.

6. Sadabahar mango



- Shrikishan Suman (55 years), a farmer from Kota, Rajasthan, has developed an innovative mango variety which is a regular and round-the-year dwarf variety of mango called Sadabahar, which is resistant to most major diseases and common mango disorders.
- The fruit is sweeter in taste, comparable to langra and being a dwarf variety, is suitable for kitchen gardening, high-density plantation, and can be grown in pots for some years too.
- Besides, the flesh of the fruits, which is bourn round the year, is deep orange with sweet taste, and the pulp has very less fiber content which differentiates it from other varieties. The bountiful of nutrients packed in mango are immensely good for health.
- The innovative attributes of the variety have been verified by the National Innovation Foundation (NIF), India, an autonomous

institution of the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India. NIF also facilitated an on-site evaluation of the variety through ICAR - Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bangalore, and a field testing at SKN Agriculture University, Jobner (Jaipur), Rajasthan. It is in the process of being registered under the Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers Right Act and ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi. NIF has also facilitated the plantation of Sadabahar mango variety in the Mughal Garden at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi.

- For this evergreen variety developed, Shrikishan Suman was conferred the NIF's 9th National Grassroots Innovation and Traditional Knowledge Award and subsequently recognised at various other fora.

7. Spices Board India



- Spices Board India under Ministry of Commerce and Industry and UNDP India's Accelerator Lab today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with the aim to build a blockchain based traceability interface for Indian spices to enhance transparency in supply chain and trade.
- Blockchain is a decentralized process of recording transactions on an open and shared electronic ledger. This allows for ease and transparency in data management across a complex network, including, farmers, brokers, distributors, processors, retailers, regulators, and consumers, thus simplifying the supply chain. It will allow farmers just as all other members of the supply chain to access the information which further makes the entire supply chain more efficient and equitable.
- UNDP and Spices Board India are working towards integrating the Blockchain Traceability Interface with the e-Spice Bazaar portal developed by Spices Board India for connecting spices farmers with markets. Design of the Blockchain interface is expected to be completed by May'21. The project will be piloted with over 3,000 farmers engaged in chilli and turmeric farming in select Districts of Andhra Pradesh.
- On this joint initiative, Shri. D. Sathiyam, Secretary, Spices Board India said that India is the largest exporter, producer and consumer of

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spices in the world. India's spices export crossed a milestone of 3 Bn USD during 2019-20 and our estimates indicate that we would cross that milestone and achieve a new high during the 2020-21.

➤ About Spices Board

- Spices Board is one of the five Commodity Boards functioning under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. It is an autonomous body responsible for the export promotion of the 52 scheduled spices and development of Cardamom (Small & Large). The main functions of the Spices Board are the following: (i) Research, Development and Regulation of domestic marketing of Small & Large Cardamom; (ii) Post-harvest improvement of all spices; (iii) Export promotion of all spices and assisting exporters in technology upgradation, quality management, brand promotion, research & product development; (iv) Development of spices in the North East; (v) Regulation of quality of spices for exports through its quality evaluation services; etc.

➤ About UNDP

- UNDP works across 170 countries and territories to eradicate poverty while protecting the planet. We help countries develop strong policies, skills, partnerships, and institutions so they can sustain their progress. UNDP has worked in India since 1951 in almost all areas of human development, from systems strengthening to inclusive growth and sustainable livelihoods, as well as sustainable energy, environment, and resilience. UNDP's programmes continue to integrate a global vision for catalytic change with India's national priorities. With over 30 projects on the ground in almost every state, today, it works to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by transforming traditional models to do development differently.

8. PM lauds the completion of Arch closure of the Chenab Bridge, World's highest Railway Bridge.

CHENAB BRIDGE
World's highest Railway Bridge

- Connects Kashmir valley to the rest of the nation
- 1315 metres long
- Highest railway bridge in the world (359 metres above the river bed level)
- 35 meters higher than Eiffel Tower in Paris
- Most sophisticated 'Tekla' software used for structural detailing of the arch
- Structural steel suitable for -10°C to 40°C temperature
- Design speed: 100 kmph
- Design wind speed: 266 kmph
- Blast resistant design in consultations with DRDO
- Designed to bear earthquake forces of high intensity Zone-V
- Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing machine used for testing of welds
- NABL accredited lab established at site for weld testing

Design life of the bridge
120 years

- The Prime Minister has lauded the completion of Arch closure of the Chenab Bridge, World's highest Railway Bridge in Jammu & Kashmir by Indian Railways.
- The Railways on Monday said it had completed the arch closure of the 1315m Chenab bridge, the world's highest railway bridge.
- Terming it one of the biggest civil engineering challenges faced by any project in India, the Railways added that at 359m above the river bed level, the bridge would be 35 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris.
- The Chenab bridge is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project (USBRL) and completion of the steel arch is an important construction milestone. "This was one of the most difficult part of the bridge over Chenab. This achievement is a major leap towards the completion of the 111-km-long winding stretch from Katra to Banihal," the Railways added.
- The arch consists of steel boxes, which will be filled with concrete to improve stability.
- The bridge is being built at a cost of ₹1,486 crore and can withstand high wind speed up to 266 km per hour.

9. INS Viraat now private property: SC



- INS Viraat, the Navy's decommissioned aircraft carrier, has become the "private property" of a ship-breaker who has already torn down 40% of its body, chiefly for scrap, the Supreme Court told a private company, that wants to turn the vessel into a maritime museum-adventure centre.
- On February 10, the court had ordered a stay on the process of dismantling the ship at an Alang yard in Gujarat.
- The carrier was bought by the Gujarat-based Shree Ram Group, a ship-breaking firm, in a bid. The 67-year-old iconic warship was towed to the breaking yard after over three decades' service in the Navy.
- **INS Viraat**
- INS Viraat (Sanskrit: Virāṭa meaning Giant) was a Centaur-class aircraft carrier of the Indian Navy. INS Viraat was the flagship of the Indian Navy before INS Vikramaditya was commissioned in 2013. The ship was completed and commissioned in 1959 as the Royal Navy's HMS Hermes, and decommissioned in 1984. It was sold to India in 1987. INS Viraat was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 12 May 1987,[1] and served for almost 30 years.

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- In February 2015, the Navy stated that Viraat would be decommissioned the following year.[3] The last British-built ship serving with the Indian Navy, she was the oldest aircraft carrier in service in the world. On 23 July 2016, Viraat sailed for the last time under her own power from Mumbai to Kochi, where she was dry-docked and prepared for decommissioning.[4] She was towed out of Kochi on 23 October, returning to Mumbai on 28 October, where she was laid up.[5] Viraat was formally decommissioned on 6 March 2017.[6] After the failure of plans to convert her into a hotel and museum, she was sold for scrap and scheduled to be broken up beginning in September 2020.

10. Tribunal Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance 2021.



- In as many as nine laws, the Centre has replaced the existing appellate authorities and vested those powers in the High Courts through an ordinance, the Tribunal Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance 2021, promulgated .
- These laws are Cinematograph Act; Copyright Act; Customs Act; Patents Act; Airports Authority of India Act; Trade Marks Act ; Geographical Indications of Goods (registration and protection) Act; Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act and Control of National Highways (land and traffic) Act.
- For example, in the Cinematograph Act, the appellate body will now be the High Court instead of the tribunal while the commercial court or the commercial divisions of the High Court will be the appellate body in the Copyright Act. Similar changes will be made in the Patents Act, Customs Act and Trade Marks Act to vest the power of appeal in High Court.
- Amendments have been introduced to the Finance Act 2017 involving the qualifications and tenure of the Chairperson and members of Tribunals. The tenure of Chairperson of a Tribunal has been fixed for a term of four years or till the age of 70, whichever is earlier. Members of a tribunal will also have a tenure of four years or until they turn 67.