

EXERCISE 'BHARAT SHAKTI'



The Prime Minister recently witnessed the tri-service exercise 'Bharat Shakti' in Pokhran, Rajasthan.

Exercise 'Bharat Shakti' is an **integrated tri-service** exercise conducted at Pokhran, Rajasthan, showcasing the prowess of indigenously manufactured defence equipment across the three services.

- The exercise involves showcasing the **calibrated tactical employment of niche technology** in a tri-services environment against perceived threats.
- The exercise displays an array of **indigenous weapon systems and platforms**, premised on the nation's **Aatmanirbharata initiative**.
- It will also **simulate realistic, synergised, multi-domain operations** displaying the integrated operational capabilities of the Indian armed forces to counter threats across land, air, sea, cyber, and space domains.
- It features **indigenous weapon systems**: T-90 (IM) Tanks, Dhanush and Sarang Gun Systems, Akash Weapons Systems, Logistics Drones, Robotic Mules.
- The Indian Navy displays **Naval Anti-Ship Missiles**, Autonomous Cargo Carrying Aerial Vehicles, and Expendable Aerial Targets.
- The Indian Air Force showcases indigenous aircraft: **Light Combat Aircraft Tejas**, Light Utility Helicopters, and **Advanced Light Helicopters**.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE



Directorate
General of Foreign
Trade

सत्यमेव जयते

Directorate General of Foreign Trade is a government organization in India responsible for the **formulation of exim guidelines** and principles for Indian importers and Indian exporters of the country.

- Before 1991, DGFT was known as the Chief Controller of Imports &

Exports (CCI&E). It is an attached office of the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** and is headed by Director General of Foreign Trade.

- It has been assigned the **role of "facilitator"**. It is responsible for implementing the Foreign Trade Policy or Exim Policy with the main **objective of promoting Indian exports**.
- The DGFT also issues scrips/authorization to exporters and monitors their corresponding obligations through a network of **24 regional offices**.

Functions:

- To **implement the Exim Policy or Foreign Trade Policy** of India by introducing various schemes and guidelines through its network of DGFT regional offices thought-out the country.
 - To Grant **Exporter Importer Code Number** to Indian Exporter and Importers. IEC Number is a unique 10 digit code required by the traders or manufacturers for the purpose of import and export in India.
 - It permits or **regulate Transit of Goods from India** or to countries adjacent to India in accordance with the bilateral treaties between India and other countries.
 - To promote trade with neighboring countries.
 - To grant the permission of free export in Export Policy Schedule 2.
 - Setting standard input-output norms is also controlled by the DGFT.
- **Headquarter: New Delhi**

WHAT IS A GRAPHICS PROCESSING UNIT?

As the world rushes to make use of the latest wave of AI technologies, one piece of high-tech hardware has become a surprisingly hot commodity: the graphics processing unit, or GPU.



Graphics Processing Unit is a **computer chip** that renders graphics and images by performing rapid mathematical calculations. GPUs are used for both professional and personal computing.

Originally, GPUs were responsible for the rendering of 2D and 3D images, animations and video.

- Like a central processing unit (CPU), a GPU is also a chip component in computing devices. One important difference, though, is that the GPU is **specifically designed to handle and accelerate graphics workloads** and display graphics content on a device such as a PC or smartphone.
- A typical modern CPU is made up of **between 8 and 16 “cores”**, each of which can process complex tasks in a sequential manner.
- GPUs, on the other hand, **have thousands of relatively small cores**, which are designed to all work at the same time (“in parallel”) to achieve fast overall processing.

How does a GPU work?

- GPUs work by using a method **called parallel processing**, where multiple processors handle separate parts of a single task.
- A GPU will also have **its own RAM to store the data** it is processing. This RAM is designed specifically to hold the large amounts of information coming into the GPU for highly intensive graphics use cases.
- For graphics applications, the CPU sends instructions to the GPU for drawing the graphics content on screen.
- The GPU executes the instructions in parallel and at high speeds to display the content on the device -- a process known as the graphics or rendering pipeline.

Applications

- GPUs are now used for creative **content production, video editing, high performance computing (HPC)** and artificial intelligence (AI).
- GPUs were developed as a way to offload those tasks from CPUs for graphics applications.
- It performs graphics-related calculations very quickly and in parallel to allow for fast and smooth rendering of content on the computer screen.

KIRTI PROGRAMME

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports inaugurated the unique Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) programme.



KIRTI Programme is aimed at school children between **nine and 18 years** age group.

- The nation-wide scheme will have two main objectives:
 - To **hunt talent from** every nook and corner of the country and
 - To use sports as a tool to curb addiction towards drugs and other gadgetry distractions.
- KIRTI aims to conduct 20 lakh assessments across the country throughout the year to identify talent through notified Talent Assessment Centres.
- KIRTI made a solid launch across 50 centres in India. Fifty thousand applicants are being assessed in the first phase across 10 sports, including athletics, boxing, wrestling, hockey, football and wrestling.
- KIRTI's athlete-centric programme is conspicuous by its transparent **selection methodology based on Information Technology**.
- **Data analytics based on Artificial Intelligence** is being used to predict the sporting acumen in an aspiring athlete.

What is Khelo India Scheme?

- It is the flagship Central Sector Scheme of the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**.
- It aims at infusing sports culture and achieving sporting excellence in the country thus allowing the populace to harness the power of sports through its cross-cutting influence.
- Under the “Sports Competitions and Talent Development” vertical of the Khelo India Scheme, the “Talent Identification and Development” component is dedicated to working towards the identification and development of athletes at the grassroots and elite levels to develop the sports ecosystem in the country.

HYODOL ROBOT

South Korean company Hyodol has come up with a way to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to beat loneliness among elders with dementia.



- The South Korean government is reported to have deployed around 7,000 Hyodol dolls to keep senior citizens ‘company’ and remind them to take medications. Loneliness among senior citizens is a growing social issue in South Korea.

About Hyodol Robot:

- It is an **AI care robot** that offers customised care for seniors. The robot does this by relying on data collected by living and having conversations with them.
- It **can hold full conversations** and it comes with a companion app and web monitoring platform for caretakers to monitor remotely. Besides, it **comes with safety features** that can **raise an alert when no movement** has been detected for a certain period of time.
- It also **comes with touch interaction**, check-ins, a health coach, voice messages, 24-hour voice reminders, music, quizzes, exercise suggestions, and more.
- Moreover, caregivers with access to the app will be able to send and receive voice messages, make group announcements, and monitor motion detection.
- The robot also continuously monitors the health condition of its users through **health Q&A two times a day**. It **collects verbal/nonverbal data for 24 hours** from the users through AI.

Technology used:

- The AI robot can hold conversations owing to the **large language model** that has been integrated into it.
- The robots provide convenient and easily managed intelligent services for users and are easy to develop and debug.
- Besides, the AI robot **can be linked to smart home devices** and comes with an interface for easy interactions for all users.

KOCHRAB ASHRAM

The Prime Minister inaugurated the redeveloped Kochrab Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, recently to mark the 94th anniversary of the Dandi March.



Kochrab Ashram was the first ashram founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1915, following his return to India from South Africa. It is located in **Kochrab village**, situated on the **outskirts of Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

- It was called **Satyagraha Ashram** based on his ideas of achieving India's independence from British rule through peaceful methods.
- **Establishment:**
 - **Gopal Krishna Gokhale** requested **Mahatma Gandhi** to return to India, which needed his skills as a community organizer.
 - Mahatma Gandhi **began his association with Ahmedabad after returning** to India from South Africa. About his decision to settle in Ahmedabad in 1915, Gandhi wrote that, as a Gujarati, he should be able to serve the country best through the Gujarati language.
 - **On 20th of May, 1915, Gandhi began living in a bungalow in Kochrab village**. The bungalow, which he soon rechristened as the Satyagraha Ashram, was **given to him by his fellow lawyer and colleague, Jeevanlal Desai**.
- Mahatma **Gandhi based himself here for about one-and-a-half years before moving** to the new campus of **Sabarmati Ashram**. It is a **colonial-style building** with a white-washed façade.

THE UNIFORM CODE FOR PHARMACEUTICAL MARKETING PRACTICES (UCPMP) 2024

Why in News?

The Department of Pharmaceuticals issued the Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) 2024.

Need for the UCPMP 2024:

- The UCPMP 2015 for Pharmaceutical as well as Medical Device Industry is being implemented (w.e.f. 1.1.2015) to prevent unethical practices by the pharmaceutical companies.
- Much of the criticism that this version of the code attracted was related to its **voluntary nature**. There was no legal backing to its provisions and it therefore **remained toothless**.
- There has been a long-pending demand of various health activists to make it mandatory. Even the 2017-18 annual report of the Department of Pharmaceuticals insisted on making it mandatory.
- While the government has now removed the word ‘voluntary’ from the code, which was there in the previous version, **it has stopped short of making it mandatory**.
- **It has now merely ‘requested’** the pharmaceutical companies’ associations to see to it that the code is ‘implemented’.

Highlights of the UCPMP 2024 on Ethical Practices of Pharma Companies:

- Engagement of the pharmaceutical industry with healthcare professionals for **Continuing Medical Education** (CME) should only be allowed -
 - Through a well-defined, transparent, and verifiable set of guidelines, and
 - Conduct of such events in foreign locations is prohibited by the uniform code.
- Medical representatives must not use any incentive and must not pay for access to a healthcare practitioner.
- Companies or their representatives **should not pay cash or monetary grants** to any healthcare professional or their family members (both immediate and extended) under any pretext.
 - **Gifting is prohibited** by any pharmaceutical company or its agent (distributors, wholesalers, retailers, etc).
- Additionally, **no pecuniary advantage or benefit** in kind may be offered, supplied or promised to any person qualified to prescribe or supply drugs by any pharmaceutical company or its agent.

- **Paid travel, hotel stays should not be extended** to healthcare professionals or their family members by pharmaceutical companies or their representatives, unless the person is a speaker for a CME, etc.
- The Union government has allowed firms to **provide research grants for healthcare professionals**, provided these are done in a transparent manner.
- The guidelines allow the industry to **support research for studies authorised** by bodies such as the Indian Council for Medical Research or the Drug Controller General of India.

Highlights of the UCPMP 2024 on Drugs:

- On drugs, the UCPMP states that **promotion of a drug must be consistent with the terms of its marketing approval**.
- Claims for the usefulness of a drug must be based on up-to-date evaluation of all available evidence.
- **The word ‘safe’ must not be used without qualification**, and it must not be stated categorically that a medicine has no side effects, toxic hazards, or risk of addiction.
- **The word ‘new’ must not be used** to describe any drug which has been generally available or any therapeutic intervention which has been generally promoted in India for more than a year.

INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS REPORT BY THE SIPRI

The latest data on international arms transfers has been released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). As per this report, India was the world's top arms importer between 2019-2023.

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

- It is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
- Established in 1966, SIPRI is based in Stockholm, Sweden. It is regularly ranked among the most respected think tanks worldwide.

- Its mission is to:
 - undertake research and activities on security, conflict and peace;
 - provide policy analysis and recommendations;
 - facilitate dialogue and build capacities;
 - promote transparency and accountability

Key highlights of the report by the SIPRI

- **India continues as the world's largest arms importer** despite ongoing efforts to bolster its defense-industrial base.
 - Between 2019 and 2023, the country accounted for a significant 9.8% of the total global arms imports.
- **Steady increase in arms import**
 - 4.7% increase in India's arms imports between 2014-18 and 2019-23.
- **Changing Dynamics in Arms Suppliers**
 - Russia (historically been India's primary weapons supplier), still accounted for 36% of its arms imports.
 - However, this trend is shifting, with India increasingly diversifying its sources to include Western countries and domestic manufacturers.
- **Growing Role of Western Suppliers**
 - France and the United States are emerging as key suppliers to India, collectively accounting for 46% of its arms imports.
- **Global Arms Trade Landscape**
 - **Top importers**
 - India is followed by **Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Ukraine, Pakistan, Japan, Egypt, Australia, South Korea, and China.**
 - **Top exporters**
 - United States leads with a 42% share, followed by France and Russia.