

Egypt

Context

Indian Army Chief General Manoj Pande has recently embarked on a two-day visit to Egypt.



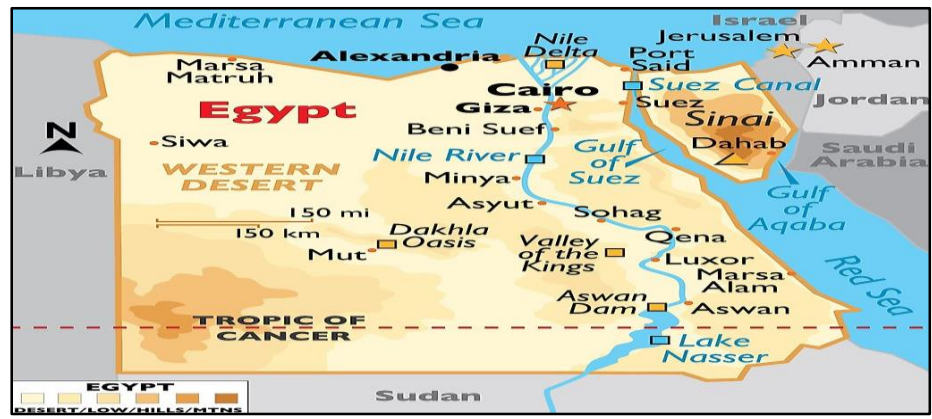
Key Highlights:

- During the visit, General Manoj Pande will be meeting the Country's senior military leadership where he will discuss avenues for further enhancing Indo-Egypt defence relations.
- The Military relations of India with Egypt are on the rise which was evident during India's **74th Republic Day parade**, wherein the Egyptian Armed Forces contingent made their first appearance.

About Egypt:

- Egypt, officially known as the Arab Republic of Egypt, is a country located in North Africa.
- It is bordered by the **Mediterranean Sea to the north**, Libya to the west, Sudan to the south, and Israel and the Gaza Strip to the northeast.
- With a population of over 100 million people, it is one of the most populous countries in Africa and the Middle East.
- Egypt has a rich history that spans over 5,000 years.
- It is known for its ancient civilization and the iconic monuments that have survived to this day, such as the **Pyramids of Giza**, the **Great Sphinx**, and the temples of Luxor and Karnak.

- In modern times, Egypt gained independence from British colonial rule in 1952 and became a republic
- Cairo**, the capital city, is not only the largest city in Egypt but also the largest in Africa.
- Arabic is the official language, and Islam is the dominant religion, with the majority of the population being **Sunni Muslims**.
- The **Nile River**, which runs through Egypt, has been a lifeline for the country, providing water and fertile soil for agriculture.



Making Online Gaming Child Friendly

Context

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has revised rules for intermediaries and digital media to address these concerns.



Key Highlights:

- The increasing use of smartphones and internet access has made online games and entertainment easily accessible to children, but it also exposes them to risks such as inappropriate content, online scams, and child predators.
- The new rules aim to **restrict harmful content** for children, allow citizens to file complaints, penalize online gaming providers for violations, and introduce oversight and verification mechanisms for real money games.

- MeitY's changes require companies** to implement robust access control measures, including user verification through **know-your-customer (KYC)** processes for money-based games.
- These changes align with global efforts by regulators to ensure the safety of **children in the digital world**, prompting multinational companies to adopt child safety and data protection practices.
- Significance:**
- The amendments introduced by MeitY are expected to address some of the concerns associated with children's access to online games.

YUVA PRATIBHA

Context

MyGov and IHM, Pusa recently launched 'YUVA PRATIBHA - Culinary Talent Hunt'.



Key Highlights:

- The competition aims to promote India's **culinary heritage** and highlight its significance globally.
- It seeks to **uncover lost recipes and showcase** the culinary talents of young chefs and home cooks.
- The United Nations declared 2023 as the **'International Year of the Millets'** following India's proposal.
- The competition aims to increase millet production, consumption, and awareness of their health benefits.

- Participants will demonstrate **creativity and innovation** in cooking with millets, emphasizing their versatility.
- The competition aims to raise awareness about the **nutritional value and importance of millets**.
- Participation is open to Indian citizens aged 18 to 40 years, with entries submitted on the MyGov portal.
- Recipes must be home-cooked, with at least **50% of the ingredients** being millet.
- Participants need to submit photographs of the ingredients, prepared dish, and themselves with the dish.

Face to Face Centres



Generic Drugs

❖ Context

- The Centre has warned doctors at central **government-run hospitals and CGHS** wellness centres to comply with the norms of prescribing generic medicines failing which action will be taken against them.



❖ What are generic drugs?

- A generic drug is a medication created to be the **same as an existing** approved brand-name drug in dosage form, safety, strength, route of administration, quality, and performance characteristics.
- It works in the same way and provides the **same clinical benefits** as its brand-name version.
- Approved generic medicines are generally sold only after **patents and exclusivities** protecting the brand-name version end.
- Generic medicines tend to cost less than their brand-name counterparts because they do not **have to repeat animal and clinical (human) studies** that were required of the brand-name medicines to demonstrate safety & effectiveness.

- In addition, multiple applications for generic drugs are often approved to market a single product; this **creates competition** in the marketplace, typically resulting in lower prices.
- The reduction in **upfront research costs** means that, although generic medicines have the same therapeutic effect as their branded counterparts, they are typically sold at substantially lower costs.
- Government agencies such as the **Central Medical Services Society (CMSS)** and the **Jan Aushadhi Scheme** (Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana) provide affordable generic medicines through various outlets and pharmacies.
- ❖ **Some examples:**
 - A generic drug is the one known by the name of its chemical component.
 - **Generic drug Paracetamol** 500 mg costs ₹10 for 10 tablets, while brand names like Crocin 500mg costs ₹30 for 15 tablets.

UTSAH and Professor of Practice (PoP) Portal

❖ Context

- The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** in India has recently launched two new portals, namely the '**UTSAH**' portal and the **Professor of Practice (PoP)** portal, to enhance the quality and effectiveness of higher education.
- These initiatives align with the National Education Policy 2020.



❖ UTSAH Portal:

- The UTSAH portal tracks and supports the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs).
- It provides **comprehensive information about UGC's initiatives** and efforts to improve higher education.
- The portal offers a **user-friendly interface** and categorized information for easy navigation.
- Students can access important updates, scholarships, and resources in the 'Student corners' section.
- Faculty members can find professional development opportunities, research grants, and teaching resources in the 'Faculty corners' section.

- The portal includes dashboards and **e-Governance portals for UGC initiatives** and schemes.
- ❖ **Professor of Practice (PoP) Portal:**
 - The PoP portal aims to bridge the gap **between academia and industry** by facilitating the hiring of experienced professionals in specific domains.
 - Experts can register on the portal by providing their email ID and mobile number.
 - They create a detailed profile showcasing their expertise and work experience.
 - Institutions and universities can view registered experts' profiles and connect with them for collaboration.
 - These portals **promote transparency, access,** and collaboration within the higher education sector, supporting the goals outlined in the National Education Policy 2020.

News in Between the Lines

Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar

❖ Context

- Union Minister recently launched mega campaign 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar'.

❖ Key Highlights:

- This campaign aims to champion, **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (RRR)** concept of waste management.
- Under this nationwide campaign, RRR Centres or one-stop collection centres will be set up where citizens can give their **used clothes, shoes, old books, toys** and plastic to be reused or recycled.



Face to Face Centres





- This three-week campaign will strengthen citizens' resolve under SBM-U 2.0 - to **reduce, reuse and recycle** - and will also champion Mission LiFE's objective of taking collective action for the protection and conservation of the environment by adopting sustainable daily habits.
- The RRR Centres are scheduled to be launched nationwide on the 20th of this month and will serve as a **one-stop solution for citizens**, institutions, and commercial enterprises to deposit unused or used plastic items, clothes, shoes, footwear, books, and toys.
- After collection, these items will be given to different **stakeholders to be refurbished** for reuse or would be made into new products, thus truly taking forward the Government's vision of a circular economy.

Innovations For Defence Excellence (iDEX)



❖ Context

- The Ministry of Defence's flagship initiative, **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)**, has achieved significant milestones in its contract signings.
- Recently, the 250th contract, the first one under Mission DefSpace, and the 100th SPRINT (Navy) contract were signed.

❖ About Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX):

- iDEX, is the flagship initiative of the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** in India.
- It is aimed at fostering innovation and promoting collaboration between the defence industry and startups, **MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises)**, and individual innovators.
- The primary objective of iDEX is to harness the innovative potential of the private sector in **meeting the technological needs** and challenges of the Indian defence sector.
- **Funding and Support:** iDEX provides financial support, mentorship, and guidance to selected startups and innovators.
 - It aims to facilitate the development and commercialization of their products and technologies.
 - The initiative also helps connect innovators with potential end-users and facilitates technology transfer to the defence industry.
- **Defence Innovation Organization (DIO):** DIO serves as the nodal agency for the implementation of iDEX.
- **Note:** Under the SPRINT initiative, 75 challenge statements were unveiled in July 2022, aiming to induct **75 technologies and products** into the Navy by August 2023.

Sweden



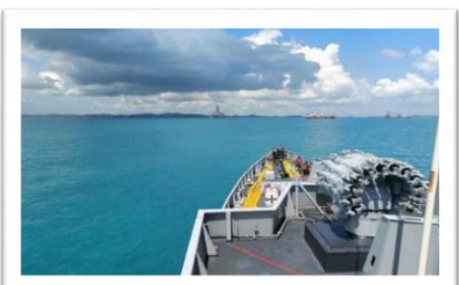
❖ Context

- External Affairs Minister recently interacted with the Indian Community in Sweden.

❖ About Sweden:

- Sweden shares borders with **Norway** to the west and Finland to the northeast.
- It is also connected to Denmark by a bridge-tunnel across the **Öresund Strait**.
- The country has a diverse landscape, including forests, mountains, and over **97,000 lakes**.
- **Capital and Cities:** Stockholm is the capital and largest city of Sweden. Other major cities include **Gothenburg, Malmö, Uppsala, and Linköping**.
- Sweden is a **constitutional monarchy** with a parliamentary system.
- The Parliament, known as **the Riksdag**, is responsible for making and passing laws.
- **Population:** Sweden has a population of approximately **10.4 million people**.

Samudra Shakti-23



❖ Context



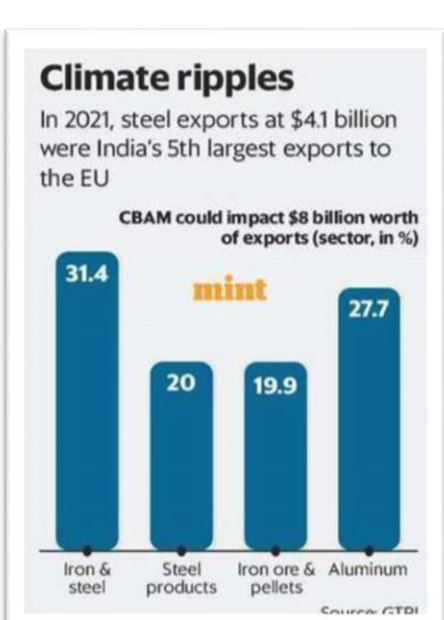
- The bilateral exercise between India and Indonesia, called Samudra Shakti-23, has begun.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The objective is to enhance interoperability and mutual cooperation between the naval forces of both countries.
- Participating aircraft and vessels include **INS Kavaratti, Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft, Chetak helicopter, KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda, CN 235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft, and AS565 Panther Helicopter**.

Face to Face Centres



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The exercise consists of harbor and sea phases, involving cross deck visits, professional interactions, subject matter expert exchanges, and dynamic exercises like weapon firing and anti-submarine warfare. Significance: Samudra Shakti-23 demonstrates the commitment of India and Indonesia to maritime security and cooperation in the region.
<p>INS Hansa</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ INS Hansa in Goa has become the very first Joint-User International Aerodrome in the South-Asia Pacific region to be augmented with the Required Navigation Performance (RNP) approach. ❖ Key Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This RNP approach will provide near Category-I ILS accuracies, thereby aiding unhindered flying operations even when the aforementioned equipment is unserviceable or under maintenance. It is India's biggest naval airbase and is home to the Indian Navy's premier air squadrons. The base has a civil enclave that operates as Dabolim Airport, Goa. This naval air station has grown to become a full-fledged airfield that handles domestic and international flights around the clock.
<p>Great Grandfather Tree</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The "Great Grandfather," an ancient tree in southern Chile, is believed to be the oldest tree in the world, with a history of over 5,000 years. ❖ Key Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Fitzroya cupressoides tree stands tall at four meters in diameter and 28 meters in height, surpassing the previous record held by Methuselah, a Great Basin bristlecone pine in the USA. The tree holds valuable scientific information about past climatic changes and environmental conditions, making it a subject of extensive research. The tree's rings act as historical records, providing insights into climate patterns, droughts, rainfall, wildfires, and earthquakes. Ancient trees like the "Great Grandfather" symbolize resilience and adaptation, offering valuable lessons on how ecosystems have evolved and survived over time.
<p>EU's Carbon Tax</p>  <p>MCQ Quiz Daily Current Affairs Daily Pre PARE Daily</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The world's first carbon tax, approved by the European Parliament recently, could impact no more than 1.8% or \$8 billion of India's exports, according to an internal assessment by the Commerce Ministry. ❖ What is Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CBAM puts an emissions tariff on imports of goods with a high risk of carbon leakage from countries which are not members of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). The EU aims to reduce emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and become climate neutral by 2050. To reach these goals, the EU has created a variety of climate change measures. One of the most prominent initiatives is the EU Emission Trading System (ETS). After being passed by lawmakers of the 27-nation bloc, the CBAM Bill is expected to come into force this month i.e in May 2023, empowering the bloc to charge a Carbon Border Tax (CBT) on imports of steel, aluminium, fertilizer, electricity, cement and hydrogen from January 2026. Not much export from India: Of the five products in CBAM, cement, fertilizer and electricity exports to the EU are nil. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In steel and aluminium, the exports are not more than 1.8% of the total exports. In 2021, steel exports at \$4.1 billion, and aluminium at \$2.7 billion were India's 5th and 7th largest exports to the EU. India's main concern: CBAM will not take into account domestic situations in other economies. EU's net zero target year is 2050 and that of India is 2070 which is a mismatch.

