



Daily PIB Summary

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I. INDIA-EGYPT EXERCISE 'CYCLONE': BOOSTING SPECIAL FORCES COOPERATION



- Exercise Cyclone focuses on **special forces training, counter-terrorism, and joint operations.**
- It strengthens **defence cooperation between India and Egypt.**
- The exercise promotes **exchange of best practices and tactical expertise.**
- It enhances **interoperability in complex combat scenarios.**
- Reflects India's growing **strategic engagement with West Asian and African partners.**
- Supports India's vision of expanding **global defence partnerships.**
- Overall, it contributes to **regional and global security cooperation frameworks.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

India-Egypt Defence Relations

- I. Egypt is a key partner in:
 - A. **West Asia-North Africa (WANA) region**

- II. Cooperation includes:
 - A. Military training
 - B. Joint exercises
 - C. Defence exchanges

Special Forces Exercises

- I. Focus on:
 - A. Counter-terrorism operations
 - B. Urban warfare
 - C. Hostage rescue
- II. Enhance:
 - A. Tactical coordination
 - B. Combat readiness

Strategic Significance

- I. Egypt's location near:
 - A. Suez Canal – a vital global trade route
- II. Strengthens India's outreach in:
 - A. Mediterranean and African regions

Defence Diplomacy

- I. Joint exercises are key tools for:
 - A. Building trust
 - B. Enhancing military cooperation
 - C. Strengthening geopolitical ties

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Joint Training:** Focus on special forces operations and counter-terrorism.
- **Strategic Partnership:** Deepens India-Egypt defence ties.
- **Operational Readiness:** Enhances combat coordination and preparedness.

- **Geopolitical Outreach:** Expands India's engagement in WANA region.
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Sharing of tactics and operational experiences.
- **Challenges:** Coordination differences and operational standardization.
- **Way Forward:** Expand scope of exercises and deepen defence collaboration.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Exercise Cyclone:** India–Egypt joint special forces exercise
- **Indian Army:** Land-based branch of Indian Armed Forces
- **Egypt Location:** North Africa, strategic due to Suez Canal
- **Suez Canal:** Connects Mediterranean Sea with Red Sea
- **WANA Region:** West Asia and North Africa
- **Special Forces Role:** Counter-terrorism and high-risk operations
- **Defence Diplomacy:** Military cooperation to strengthen ties

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

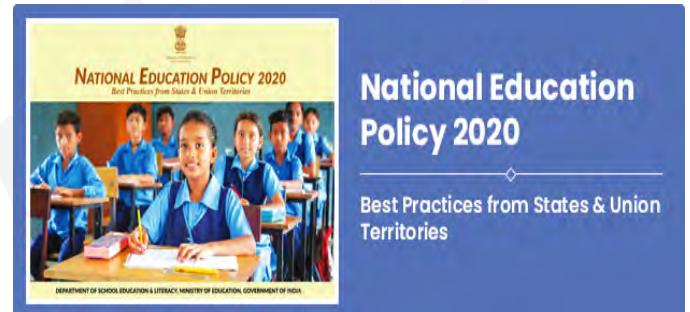
1. Exercise Cyclone is a joint special forces exercise between India and Egypt.
2. The Suez Canal connects the Atlantic Ocean directly with the Indian Ocean.
3. Joint military exercises enhance interoperability between armed forces.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

2.CAREER CARDS FOR CWSN LAUNCHED: PROMOTING INCLUSIVE GUIDANCE UNDER NEP 2020



- Career Cards provide **information on educational and vocational pathways** tailored for CWSN.
- They help identify **strengths, skills, and suitable career options** for students with disabilities.
- Supports NEP 2020's vision of **inclusive and equitable education**.
- Enhances **employability, skill development, and empowerment** of CWSN.
- Integrates **technology and counseling tools** for better career guidance.
- Facilitates **early intervention, informed choices, and holistic development**.
- Overall, it aligns with India's goal of **inclusive education and skill-based opportunities**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

CWSN and Inclusive Education

- I. Children with Special Needs include:
 - A. Physical disabilities
 - B. Learning difficulties
 - C. Neurodiverse conditions
- II. Inclusive education ensures:
 - A. **Access to learning opportunities**
 - B. **Tailored support mechanisms**

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

- I. Emphasizes:
 - A. Inclusive education
 - B. Skill development and vocational training
 - C. Personalized learning approaches

Career Guidance for CWSN

- I. Historically, CWSN had **limited access to career counseling**.
- II. Career Cards aim to:
 - A. Map skills and aptitudes
 - B. Provide vocational pathways
 - C. Empower informed decision-making

Implementation Mechanism

- I. Schools and special education institutions use Career Cards for:
 - A. Student profiling
 - B. Career counseling sessions
 - C. Linking to vocational training and higher education opportunities

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Inclusivity:** Focused on differently-abled students for equitable guidance.
- **Skill Mapping:** Identifies student strengths and interests.
- **Vocational Pathways:** Suggests suitable career options and courses.
- **NEP Alignment:** Supports personalized and holistic learning.
- **Empowerment:** Enhances employability and social inclusion.
- **Challenges:** Teacher training, awareness, and accessibility issues.
- **Way Forward:** Scale across schools, integrate digital tools, and strengthen counselor capacity.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **CWSN:** Children with Special Needs
- **NEP 2020:** National Education Policy focusing on inclusive education
- **Career Cards:** Tool for personalized career guidance
- **Focus Areas:** Skill mapping, vocational pathways, employability
- **Implementing Bodies:** Schools, special education institutions
- **Goal:** Inclusive, equitable, and skill-oriented education
- **Challenge:** Ensuring access and trained counselors

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Career Cards for CWSN provide personalized career guidance under NEP 2020.
2. NEP 2020 emphasizes inclusivity, skill development, and vocational training.
3. Career Cards are exclusively for students in higher education institutions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

3. INDIA RANKS THIRD GLOBALLY IN RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTALLED CAPACITY



- I. India's renewable energy capacity now places it **after China and the USA** globally.
- II. Includes contributions from:
 - A. Solar power
 - B. Wind energy
 - C. Small hydro and biomass

- III. Supports India's **Net Zero and renewable energy targets under the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**.
- IV. Accelerates **green energy transition, energy security, and emission reduction**.
- V. Drives **industrial growth, job creation, and investment in clean energy technologies**.
- VI. Enhances India's **global leadership in climate action and renewable energy adoption**.
- VII. Overall, it reflects a **strategic push for sustainable development and energy self-reliance**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Renewable Energy in India

- I. It is governed by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- II. Installed capacity includes:
 - A. **Solar:** Utility-scale and rooftop
 - B. **Wind:** Onshore and offshore
 - C. **Biomass & Small Hydro**

Global Context

- I. India ranks **3rd after China and the USA** in renewable energy capacity.
- II. Global renewable trends emphasize:
 - A. Reduction of fossil fuel dependence
 - B. Achievement of climate targets
 - C. Sustainable economic growth

Policy Framework

- I. Key initiatives:

- A. **National Solar Mission**
 - B. **Wind Energy Development Program**
 - C. **Renewable Energy Development Fund**
- II. Supports:
- A. **Make in India for renewable technologies**
 - B. Private sector participation in clean energy

- **Climate Target:** Net Zero by 2070 (India)
- **NDCs:** Nationally Determined Contributions under Paris Agreement
- **Policy Programs:** National Solar Mission, Wind Energy Program

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Global Standing:** Third-largest installed renewable capacity.
- **Energy Security:** Reduces reliance on imported fossil fuels.
- **Climate Action:** Supports India's NDC targets and emission reduction goals.
- **Economic Impact:** Boosts green jobs and renewable investments.
- **Technology Advancement:** Promotes solar, wind, biomass innovations.
- **Challenges:** Grid integration, intermittency, and financing constraints.
- **Way Forward:** Expand storage solutions, offshore wind, and hybrid renewable systems.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **MNRE:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- **Installed Capacity:** Total generation capacity connected to the grid
- **Renewable Sources:** Solar, wind, biomass, small hydro
- **Global Ranking:** 3rd (after China and USA)

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. India ranks third globally in renewable energy installed capacity.
2. Renewable energy sources in India include solar, wind, biomass, and small hydro.
3. India's renewable energy targets are independent of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

4. CABINET APPROVES REVISED COST AND EQUITY FOR HPCL RAJASTHAN REFINERY



- The revision increases **capital allocation** for HRRL to meet **cost overruns and enhanced project requirements**.
- Supports completion of the **Rajasthan refinery, improving domestic petroleum processing capacity**.
- Enhances **energy security and reduces dependence on imports**.
- The project is aligned with **Make in India and energy infrastructure expansion policies**.
- Promotes **industrial growth, employment, and local economic development** in Rajasthan.
- Strengthens **public-sector investment in strategic energy assets**.
- Overall, it reflects a governance push for **modernizing refining capacity and boosting energy self-reliance**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL)

- I. A joint venture between:
 - A. **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)**
 - B. **Government of Rajasthan**

- II. Refinery capacity: **9 MMTPA (million metric tonnes per annum)**.
- III. Located at **Pachpadra, Balotra district**, strategically serving western India.

Project Importance

- Reduces **transportation dependence on distant refineries**.
- Supplies refined products to **domestic and regional markets**.
- Contributes to **industrial and infrastructure development** in the region.

Equity and Cost Revision

- I. Cabinet approval allows:
 - A. Increase in **investment in equity by HPCL and Rajasthan government**
 - B. Revision of total **project cost due to inflation and scope changes**
- II. Ensures **financial closure and smooth execution**.

Energy Security Context

- Enhances India's **refining capacity and petroleum self-reliance**.
- Complements **Petroleum & Natural Gas sector initiatives**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Capital Revision:** Updated project cost and equity structure approved.
- **Strategic Significance:** Strengthens domestic refining and energy security.
- **Operational Viability:** Ensures timely completion of HRRL refinery.
- **Economic Impact:** Boosts employment and local development in Rajasthan.
- **Policy Alignment:** Supports Make in India, energy infrastructure expansion.
- **Challenges:** Cost overruns, project execution delays, and logistics management.
- **Way Forward:** Monitor project milestones, enhance efficiency, and integrate sustainable practices.

2. The Cabinet approval involves revision of project cost and equity investment for HRRL.
3. HRRL refinery is located in Jaipur district of Rajasthan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **HRRL:** HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited
- **Location:** Pachpadra, Balotra district, Rajasthan
- **Refinery Capacity:** 9 MMTPA
- **Equity Partners:** HPCL & Government of Rajasthan
- **Purpose:** Domestic petroleum processing and energy security
- **Cabinet Approval:** Revised project cost and equity allocation
- **Policy Context:** Make in India, energy self-reliance

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited is a joint venture between HPCL and the Government of Rajasthan.

5.NATIONAL QUANTUM MISSION ACHIEVES 1,000-KM SECURE COMMUNICATION MILESTONE



- The milestone demonstrates India's **capability in long-distance quantum key distribution (QKD)**.
- Strengthens **cybersecurity, secure communication, and strategic technology capabilities**.
- Quantum communication ensures **tamper-proof, highly secure data transfer**.
- Supports India's **National Mission on Quantum Technologies & Applications (NM-QTA)** objectives.
- Promotes **research, innovation, and technological self-reliance** in quantum science.
- Enhances India's position in the global **quantum technology race**.
- Overall, aligns with strategic focus on **secure communication for governance, defense, and critical infrastructure**.

- A. **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)**: Ensures unbreakable encryption
- B. **Tamper detection**: Any eavesdropping disrupts the quantum state

Strategic Importance

- I. Applications in:
 - A. Defense communications
 - B. Banking and financial systems
 - C. Critical infrastructure cybersecurity
- II. Helps India reduce dependency on foreign technology in secure communication.

Global Context

- Countries like **China, USA, and EU members** are leading quantum technology development.
- India's achievement signals **rapid progress and global competitiveness**.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

National Quantum Mission (NQM)

- I. Launched to **accelerate quantum technology development** in India.
- II. Managed under the Department of **Science & Technology (DST)**.
- III. Focus areas include:
 - A. Quantum communication
 - B. Quantum computing
 - C. Quantum sensing and metrology

Quantum Communication

- I. Uses **quantum properties of particles** to transmit information.
- II. Key features:

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Milestone Achieved**: 1,000-km quantum-secure communication link.
- **Mission Objective**: Development of secure quantum communication and technologies.
- **Technological Significance**: Quantum Key Distribution ensures unbreakable encryption.
- **Strategic Impact**: Enhances cybersecurity in governance, defense, and critical sectors.

- **Research & Innovation:** Strengthens India's quantum technology ecosystem.
- **Challenges:** Scaling to longer distances, integration with conventional networks.
- **Way Forward:** Expand quantum networks nationwide, promote private sector participation, and advance quantum computing capabilities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **NQM:** National Quantum Mission
- **QKD:** Quantum Key Distribution
- **DST:** Department of Science & Technology, India
- **Quantum Communication:** Tamper-proof data transmission using quantum mechanics
- **Global Leaders:** China, USA, EU in quantum technology
- **Applications:** Cybersecurity, defense, banking, critical infrastructure
- **Mission Goal:** India's self-reliance in quantum technology

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The National Quantum Mission has achieved 1,000-km secure quantum communication.
2. Quantum Key Distribution ensures tamper-proof encryption.
3. The National Quantum Mission is implemented under the Ministry of Defence.