

# IACE

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## Exercise Khanjar commences in Himachal Pradesh

- The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of **India-Kyrgyzstan** Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 22nd January to 3rd February 2024. It is an annual event conducted alternatively in both the countries.
- The Indian Army contingent comprising 20 personnel is being represented by troops from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) and the Kyrgyzstan contingent comprising 20 personnel is represented by Scorpion Brigade.
- Aim of the exercise is to exchange experiences and best practices in Counter Terrorism and Special Forces Operations in Built-up Area and Mountainous Terrain under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter.
- The exercise will emphasise on developing Special Forces skills, advanced techniques of insertion and extraction.
- The exercise will also accord opportunity to showcase capabilities of cutting edge indigenous defence equipment besides achieving shared security objectives and foster bilateral relations.





## India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE

- The Indian Army contingent comprising 25 personnel reached Egypt to take part in the 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE.
- The Exercise will be conducted at **Anshas, Egypt** from 22nd January to 1st February 2024. The first edition of the exercise was conducted last year in India.
- The Indian contingent is being represented by troops from **The Parachute Regiment** (Special Forces) and Egyptian contingent comprising 25 personnel is being represented by **Egyptian Commando Squadron** and Egyptian Airborne Platoon.

- Aim of the Exercise is to acquaint both the sides with each other's operating procedures in the backdrop of Special Operations in desert/ semi desert terrain under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter.
- Exercise CYCLONE is designed to develop bilateral military cooperation and strengthen bond between two armies through conduct of discussions and rehearsal of tactical military drills.

# Shubman Gill, Ravi Shastri to be honoured at BCCI awards

- Indian opener Shubman Gill will be conferred the **Cricketer of the Year** award at the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) awards while Ravi Shastri is set to receive the **Lifetime Achievement Award**.
- **Gill** became the fastest batter to cross the 2000-run mark in the One Day International (ODI) format.
- Gill became the fourth Indian batter after Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli to top the ICC batting rankings in ODIs.



- **Shastri**, represented India in 80 Tests and 150 ODIs. Post retirement, he gained fame as TV commentator.
- He also twice headed the coaching staff of the Indian team, first as team director from 2014 to 2016 and then as the head coach from 2017 until T20 World Cup in 2021.

## AIIB invests 58.4 million in India's largest renewable energy InvIT

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has invested INR4.86 billion (around USD58.4 million equivalent) in India's largest renewable energy **Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)**.



- The InvIT (**Sustainable Energy Infra Trust or SEIT**), has eight operating solar power generation assets of 1.54 gigawatt-peak total capacity located nationwide in India.
  - SEIT is co-sponsored by Mahindra Susten Private Limited, the dedicated renewable energy platform of one of the largest Indian multinational conglomerates (the Mahindra Group) and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, a leading global institutional investor.
- AIIB aims to support the development of InvITs as an infrastructure asset class in India.
  - The project is AIIB's second investment in InvITs in India, following a June 2019 investment of approximately USD50 million in Oriental Structural Engineers InvIT, the objective of which is to mobilize long-term private institutional capital for financing of roads and highways in India.

## Tarun Khulbe to be CEO of Jindal Stainless Ltd



- Jindal Stainless Ltd said it has elevated Whole Time Director **Tarun Khulbe** as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- A decision in this regard was taken at the company's board meeting last week.
- Tarun has been serving as the Whole Time Director of the company since May 2018.
- Khulbe has around 35 years of industry experience in business development, supply chain management, people practices and IT enablement.

## Himalayan Wolf listed as 'Vulnerable' on IUCN Red List

- Himalayan Wolf has been assessed for the first time in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Red List and categorised as '**Vulnerable**'.
- The wolf is also called as Tibetan wolves, which live at more than 4,000 metres altitudes are genetically distinct from grey wolves.
- Living at such high altitudes, these wolves have genetically adapted themselves to live in low oxygen (hypoxic) conditions.

### **Distribution:**

- In China, the Himalayan wolf lives on the Tibetan Plateau in the provinces of Gansu, Qinghai, Tibet, and western Sichuan.
- In northern India, it occurs in the Union Territory of Ladakh and in the Lahaul and Spiti region in northeastern Himachal Pradesh.

### **Threats:**

- It is illegally hunted for trade in its fur and body parts including paws, tongues, heads, and other parts.



# Parakram Diwas – Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>



- Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary is celebrated on January 23 every year to commemorate and honour Netaji's strength as one of India's greatest freedom fighters.
- The day is celebrated as '**Parakram Diwas**' or **Courage Day**. This year nation observe the 127th edition of this day.
- In 1942, he formed the Indian National Army in Southeast Asia with the help of Japan, comprising of Indian soldiers the British Indian army captured in war.
- The title 'Netaji', which means '**Revered Leader**' in Hindi, was given to Subhas Chandra Bose by German and Indian officials at the Special Bureau of India in Berlin.

## Third South Summit of G77 was held in Uganda

- The third South Summit was held at Kampala in Uganda from 20 to 23 January 2024 With the theme “**Leaving No One Behind**”.
- It is a platform to bring energy to the cooperation among its 134 member States of the Group of 77 (G-77) in a more competitive world.
- From the Indian side Minister of State for External Affairs **V Muraleedharan** attended the inaugural session of the Third South Summit.
- South Summit is the supreme decision-making body of Group of 77.
- The summit aims to boost South-South cooperation, in the areas of trade and sustainable development, investment, climate change, poverty eradication, and digital economy.
- On June 15, 1964, the Group of 77 (G-77) was established by 77 developing countries.



# Endangered Alphabets Writing Award 2024

WORLD  
ENDANGERED  
WRITING DAY

JANUARY 23, 2024



- **Prasanna Sree Sathupati**, a linguist from **Andhra University in Visakhapatnam**, has earned recognition by being selected for the 2024 Endangered Alphabets Writing award.
- The prestigious award ceremony is scheduled to take place in Vermont, USA, and Wins 2024 Endangered Alphabets Writing Award.
- The presentation of the award is slated for January 23, where she will join individuals and organizations from countries like Canada, Morocco, Bangladesh, Nepal, the Philippines, and Indonesia in receiving this distinguished honor.
- This accomplishment reflects her significant contribution to the field of linguistics and her commitment to preserving **endangered alphabets**.



# India Elected as Vice-Chair of UN FAO Committee on Fisheries

- India has been elected as the Vice-Chair of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Management.
- India's role in this committee as a representative of least developed and developing countries in the field of fisheries and management will determine the direction of the sector.
- India will serve as a member of the **Global Bureau of Fisheries and Management** for the first time in 57 years. The Indian Embassy in Italy has given this information.
- This will prove especially important in the case of artisanal and small scale fisheries. The embassy also said that India will work as a member of the FAO Fisheries Bureau on '**Capture Fisheries**' for the first time in 57 years.
- The Sub-committee on Fisheries Management is a forum to discuss fisheries management issues at the national, regional and global levels.
- India is one of the top fishing countries with over **28 million** inland and marine fisheries.



**India becomes  
first Vice Chair  
of FAO COFI  
Fisheries  
Sub-Committee**

# Kuwaiti Dinar is the strongest currency in the world

- According to a Forbes report, Kuwaiti Dinar has been declared as the strongest currency in the world despite dominance of the US dollar, that occupied the tenth spot in the latest rankings.
- The **Bahraini Dinar** and **Omani Rial** occupy the second and third spots respectively.
- The United Nations currently recognises 180 currencies as legal tenders, but the popularity and use do not equate to the value or strength commanded by a currency.
- The strength of the currency is determined by evaluating the number of goods and services which can be purchased with one unit of the national currency and foreign currency obtained in exchange.

## ➤ **TOP 10 CURRENCIES OF THE WORLD**

1. Kuwaiti Dinar
2. Bahraini Dinar
3. Omani Rial
4. Jordanian Dinar
5. Gibraltar Pound
6. British Pound
7. Cayman Island Dollar
8. Swiss Franc
9. Euro
10. US Dollar

