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Exercise DUSTLIK

- Exercise DUSTLIK (EX- DUSTLIK) is a joint training exercise conducted between the armies of India and Uzbekistan.
- The third edition of this exercise is being held in Yangiyark, Uzbekistan from March 22 to 31, 2022.

Key point

- The last edition of Ex-DUSTLIK was held in March 2021 at Ranikhet, Uttarakhand.
- To participate in this exercise, the Indian contingent is being represented by a platoon force of Grenadiers Regiment.
- The Grenadiers Battalion representing India in this exercise is one of the most prestigious battalions of the Indian Army.
- This battalion has the distinction of participating in most of the pre-independence and post-independence operations of the Indian Army.

Focus of this exercise

- This joint exercise between the two armies will focus on counter-terrorism operations conducted in semi-urban terrain under the mandate of the United Nations.

Purpose of the exercise

- The objective of the training program of this exercise will be to learn best practices from each other and share exercises at tactical level.
- The aim of this exercise will also be to promote cooperation, understanding and interoperability between the armies of the two countries.
- The exercise will end with a 24-hour validation exercise which will be a test for the armies of both the countries.

Boma Technique: Africa

- Recently, 'Boma Technique' of Africa was used in 'Keoladeo National Park' of Bharatpur district of Rajasthan.
- It was used to capture chital or spotted deer and transport them to Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve, to improve the hunting base.
- The chital's IUCN Red List status is 'Least Concern'.

What is 'Boma Capturing Technique'?

- Boma capturing technique is very popular in Africa.
- In this, animals are chased through a funnel-like fence and transported to an enclosure.
- This funnel takes the form of an animal selection-cum-loading structure and is covered with a mat and green netting to make it opaque to the animals, in which the animals are transported to a large area for their transportation.
- This old technique was first used for training and service for catching wild elephants.
- This relocation exercise has been approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- Migration of herbivores will reduce hunting of rural cattle, sheep and goats around tiger reserves.

Key points related to Keoladeo National Park:

- Keoladeo National Park was earlier known as Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary.
- It is located in the state of Rajasthan.
- It is included in UNESCO World Heritage and Ramsar Site.
- **Breeding Ground:** Various species from far flung areas of northern hemisphere come to this sanctuary for breeding. The Siberian Crane is one of the rare species that is frequently seen here.
- **Fauna:** Animals like jackal, sambar, nilgai, wild cats, hyena, wild boar, porcupine and mongoose are found in this area.
- **Vegetation:** The major vegetation types are tropical dry deciduous forests, with dry grasslands with *Acacia nilotica*.
- **River:** Gambhir and Banganga are the two rivers that flow through this national park.

Protected Areas in Rajasthan:

Tiger Reserve:

- Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR) in Sawai Madhopur
- Sariska Tiger Reserve (STR) in Alwar

- Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR) in Kota

National Park:

- Desert National Park, Jaisalmer
- Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur

Wildlife Sanctuary:

- Sajjangerh Wildlife Sanctuary, Udaipur
- National Chambal Sanctuary (at the tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh)

INS Shivaji

- Recently the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has recognized INS Shivaji as a Center of Excellence (CoE) in the field of Marine Engineering.
- The recognition of INS Shivaji as a Center of Excellence (CoE) in the field of Marine Engineering is a first of its kind for any military organization and reflects INS Shivaji's continued commitment to skill and technology development.

INS Shivaji:

- INS Shivaji is an Indian Naval Station in Lonavala, Maharashtra.
- It houses the Naval College of Engineering, which educates and trains Indian Navy and Coast Guard officers.
- It has three major training institutes- Center of Marine Engineering and Technology (CMET), Center of Excellence in Marine Engineering and School of Basic Sciences.
- The Nuclear Biological Chemical Defense School (NBCD), which trains naval personnel on all aspects of NBCD, is also located in the station.
- The Naval Station was commissioned as HMIS (His Majesty's Indian Ship) Shivaji in February 1945.
- The Center of Excellence (Marine Engineering) of INS Shivaji was established in 2014 with a broad mandate, which includes incorporation of specific technologies for naval applications, R&D of high repute and quality research in collaboration with academic institutions.

- It was aimed at massively improving the skills of personnel in the Indian Navy, friendly foreign navies and the entire ecosystem.

Center of Excellence (CoE):

- Center of Excellence (CoE) is a body that provides leadership, best practices, research, support, trainers' training and skills training for a specific area/s.
- The literal meaning of 'Center of Excellence' is 'a place where the highest standards are maintained'.
- In accordance with the National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015, it was decided to promote National Skill Universities and Institutes as Centers of Excellence for skill development and training of trainers in partnership with the States.
- Center of Excellence in the Skills Ecosystem as a one-stop resource center in partnership with industry to raise training standards, boost productivity, address emerging skill gaps and align training and research with industry needs is installed.
- It is proposed to recognize "Centers of Excellence" by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) for a continuous supply of skilled workforce and dissemination of best practices with an aim to bridge the imbalance between skill demand and supply.
- This initiative will encourage such bodies to engage in R&D activities in the skilling domain and allied areas to work in key emerging areas where there is already a lack of knowledge or skills, so as to set up a Center of Excellence.

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