

# DAILY PT POINTERS

22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2023



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB: Defence - GS III

Ministry of Defence



### INDIA-USA JOINT EXERCISE VAJRA PRAHAR COMMENCES IN UMROI, MEGHALAYA

Posted On: 21 NOV 2023 3:13PM by PIB Delhi

14<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise “VAJRA PRAHAR 2023” commenced at the Joint Training Node, Umroi today. The US contingent is represented by personnel from the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group (SFG) of US Special Forces. The Indian Army contingent is led by Special Forces personnel from the Eastern Command.

Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR is a joint exercise conducted between Indian Army and US Army Special Forces. It aims at sharing best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics.

## INDIA-USA JOINT EXERCISE VAJRA PRAHAR

- The 14<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise “VAJRA PRAHAR 2023” begins in Meghalaya.
- It is a joint exercise conducted between the Indian Army and the US Army Special Forces.
- It aims at sharing best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics.

### Background

- The first edition was conducted in the year 2010 in India.
- The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise was conducted at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS), Bakloh (Himachal Pradesh).

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Education; GS 2

State Educational Achievement Survey 2023 – PARAKH successfully conducted

80 lakh students from 3 lakh schools at 5917 blocks across the nation participated in the survey



## State Educational Achievement Survey 2023

- The State Educational Achievement Survey was conducted by PARAKH.
- The primary objective of this survey is to assess the learning competencies of students at the end of each educational stage, i.e., foundational, preparatory, and middle with a primary focus on Language and Mathematics.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



**AIR: Economy ; GS 3**

## Atal Innovation Mission under NITI Aayog launches Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion

The Atal Innovation Mission under NITI Aayog launched a new accelerator program called Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE) in New Delhi on Tuesday.

The program will support startups and small to mid-sized enterprises (SMEs) working on circular economy technologies and solutions in India and Australia.



**NITI Aayog**

### Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE)

- The Atal Innovation Mission under NITI Aayog launched a new accelerator program called Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE).
- The program will support startups and small to mid-sized enterprises (SMEs) working on circular economy technologies and solutions in India and Australia.
- It will help startups navigate early steps in a new region, fast-track connections to the right partners, customers and talent, and build credibility to succeed in international markets

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS 3-Environment (Page 10)

## The OECD report on climate finance

*How much of the climate finance provided by developed countries is comprised of loans? What does the 'new and additional finance' clause in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change mean? Why do rich and developed economies want to keep the definition of climate finance vague?*



- A report published by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), showed that economically developed countries fell short of their promise to jointly mobilise \$100 billion a year, towards the climate mitigation and adaptation needs of developing countries, in 2021 – one year past the 2020 deadline.
- The report said developed countries mobilised \$89.6 billion in 2021 and that finance for adaptation fell by 14% in 2021 compared to 2020.

### Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

- Established in 1961.
- It is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. Its goal is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all.
- **HQ** : Paris, France

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

IE: Science and Technology, GS-3 (Page 1)



## SICKLE CELL ANAEMIA (SCA) IN INDIA

Prevalence of SCA in  
**8.75%** (9,96,368)



*In 2011, a nationwide screening by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) covered 1,13,83,664 individuals*

### Sickle Cell Anaemia Support Corner data

Carriers	SCA
<b>9,49,057</b>	<b>47,311</b>

■ Fifteen states in India have the highest incidence of the disease, with Maharashtra topping the chart

An estimated 30,000–40,000 children are born with the disorder in the country each year



### What is sickle cell anaemia?

- Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a group of **inherited (genetic) red blood cell disorders**.
- Red blood cells (RBCs) contain hemoglobin, a protein that carries oxygen. Healthy red blood cells are round, and they move through small blood vessels to carry oxygen to all parts of the body.
- In SCD, the hemoglobin is abnormal, which causes the **RBCs to become hard and sticky and look like a C-shaped farm tool called a “sickle.”**
- It is transmitted by parents carrying a **defective ‘beta globin’ gene**.
- The **sickle cells die early**, which causes a constant shortage of RBCs.
- When they travel through small blood vessels, they get stuck and clog the blood flow. This can cause pain and other serious complications (health problems) such as infection, acute chest syndrome and stroke.

IE: Science and Technology, GSIII

## What is tantalum, the rare metal found in Sutlej?

First discovered in 1802, tantalum is a rare metal named after a Greek mythological figure. Here is everything you need to know about it.



A team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar has found the presence of tantalum a rare metal in the Sutlej river sand in Punjab.

### What is tantalum?

- Tantalum is a rare metal. It's grey, heavy, very hard, and one of the most corrosion-resistant metals in use today.
- It possesses high corrosion resistance because when exposed to air, it forms an oxide layer that is extremely difficult to remove, even when it interacts with strong and hot acid environments.

### Uses of tantalum

- Tantalum is most prominently used in the electronic sector. The capacitors made from tantalum are capable of storing more electricity in smaller sizes without much leakage than any other type of capacitor.
- This makes them ideal for use in portable electronic devices such as smartphones, laptops, and digital cameras.
- As tantalum has a high melting point, it is frequently used as a substitute for platinum, which is more expensive.