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TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(05 December 2024)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- EXERCISE HARIMAU SHAKTI
- EXERCISE CINBAX
- INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
- HEALTHCARE IN INDIA
 - NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY, 2017
- MCQs

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EXERCISE HARIMAU SHAKTI

India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise **HARIMAU SHAKTI**

Date of Commencement:

- **2nd December 2024**
- **Location:** Bentong Camp, Pahang District, Malaysia
- **Duration:** 2nd to 15th December 2024

OBJECTIVE:

The main goal of **HARIMAU SHAKTI** is to **enhance the joint military capabilities** of both nations to conduct **counter-insurgency operations** in **jungle terrain**. This aligns with **Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate** for peacekeeping and security operations.

OVERVIEW

- The **4th edition** of the **India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise *HARIMAU SHAKTI*** commenced in **Bentong, Malaysia**.
- The exercise alternates between India and Malaysia each year; the **previous edition was held in November 2023 at Umroi Cantonment, Meghalaya, India**.

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Participating Forces:

- **Indian Contingent:**

- 78 personnel from the **MAHAR Regiment**, representing the Indian Army.

- **Malaysian Contingent:**

- 123 personnel from **The Royal Malaysian Regiment**.

PHASES OF THE EXERCISE

- **Phase 1: Cross-Training & Drills**

- Focus on sharing expertise in various **jungle warfare tactics**.
- Includes **lectures, demonstrations, and practical drills** for both armies to practice standard **counter-insurgency drills** in dense jungle environments.

- **Phase 2: Simulated Combat Exercise**

- Involves **active participation** of both armies in executing **counter-insurgency operations**.
- Key drills include:
 - **Anti-MT Ambush**
 - **Occupation of Harbour**
 - **Reconnaissance Patrol (Recce)**
 - **Ambush Tactics**

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- **Attack on terrorist-controlled areas**

GOALS OF THE EXERCISE

- **Enhance Interoperability:**

- Develop mutual understanding of **tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs)** for conducting joint operations in complex environments.

- **Improve Tactical Coordination:**

- Share **best practices** and enhance operational capabilities in **jungle warfare** and counter-insurgency operations.

- **Strengthen Bilateral Relations:**

- Foster **camaraderie** and **bonhomie** between the armed forces of India and Malaysia.
- Enhance overall **defence cooperation**, furthering ties between the two countries.

Strategic Importance:

- Joint exercises like *HARIMAU SHAKTI* are vital in enhancing **regional security**, strengthening defence ties, and improving the readiness of both armies to tackle **terrorism** and **insurgency** in challenging terrains.

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EXERCISE CINBAX



- The first-ever **Joint Tabletop Exercise (CINBAX)** between the **Indian Army** and the **Cambodian Army** officially began on December 1, 2024, at the **Foreign Training Node, Pune, India**.
- The exercise will run until **December 8, 2024**, and will involve personnel from both countries' armies.
- This exercise marks a significant milestone in the defense cooperation between India and Cambodia.

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KEY ASPECTS

- **Participants:**

- The **Indian Army** contingent consists of **20 personnel** from an Infantry Brigade.
- The **Cambodian Army** contingent also comprises **20 personnel**.

- **Objective of the Exercise:**

- The primary aim of Exercise CINBAX is to **wargame the conduct of joint Counter-Terrorism (CT) operations** under **Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter**, which pertains to actions related to threats to international peace and security.
- The exercise will focus on:
 - **Establishment of a Joint Training Task Force for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR).**
 - Planning and execution of CT operations in a complex operational environment.
 - Wargaming various **contingencies** and discussing the use of **force multipliers** in sub-conventional operations.

- **Focus Areas:**

- The exercise will include discussions and planning on various aspects of modern warfare and peacekeeping, including:

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- **Information Operations and Cyber Warfare.**
- **Hybrid Warfare**, which blends conventional and unconventional tactics.
- **Logistics and Casualty Management.**
- **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.**
- **Exercise Phases:**
 - **Phase-I:** Preparations and orientation for conducting CT operations in the context of **UN peacekeeping missions.**
 - **Phase-II:** Conduct of the **Tabletop Exercise**, where scenarios will be simulated to test operational coordination.
 - **Phase-III:** Finalization of plans, reviewing the training outcomes, and summarizing the lessons learned.

GOALS

- **Enhancing Interoperability:** CINBAX aims to improve the operational **interoperability** between the Indian and Cambodian armed forces.
- This is **critical for future peacekeeping missions** where both nations may need to **collaborate in a multinational force under the UN framework.**

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- **Building Trust and Camaraderie:** The exercise is also an opportunity to foster mutual **trust, camaraderie, and understanding** between the two armies, which are vital for smooth cooperation in joint peacekeeping operations.
- **Skill Development:** The exercise provides a platform for both armies to engage in **situation-based discussions and tactical exercises**, helping participants grasp practical aspects of joint operations in a **CT environment**.
- **Promotion of Indigenous Capabilities:** The exercise will showcase **Indian-made weapons and equipment**, reinforcing India's commitment to **self-reliance** in defense production under the **Atma Nirbharta** initiative.
- It also aims to highlight India's growing **defense manufacturing capabilities**.

STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE

- **Strategic Cooperation:** CINBAX is **part of India's broader defense diplomacy efforts to strengthen ties with Southeast Asian nations**, especially Cambodia, which is an important partner in the **ASEAN** region.
- This exercise shows the growing defense relationship between the two countries.

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- **United Nations Peacekeeping Framework:** The focus on **UN peacekeeping operations** reflects the shared commitment of both nations to contributing to international peace and security, particularly in **counter-terrorism** and **peace enforcement operations**.
- **Strengthening Regional Security:** Through joint training and operational planning, this exercise contributes to regional security by enhancing the ability of both armies to respond to emerging threats, particularly in unstable regions.
- **Long-term Partnership:** CINBAX is expected to pave the way for future defense cooperation, including more complex exercises and collaborative peacekeeping missions.
- It also aligns with India's goal of enhancing its defense ties with countries in the **Indo-Pacific region**.

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Overview:

- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** is celebrated annually on **December 3rd** to **raise awareness and promote the rights**, abilities, and achievements of persons with disabilities.
- The focus of this year's observance highlights **hearing loss as an "invisible disability"** and the importance of supporting the **deaf community** through education, awareness, and inclusive programs. (**Empowering the Deaf, Celebrating Abilities, and Advancing Inclusion**)
- **The Stephen School for Deaf and Aphasic** has been at the forefront of supporting children with hearing loss for **66 years**, with a commitment to early identification and intervention.

KEY INITIATIVES BY THE STEPHENS SCHOOL FOR DEAF & APHASIC

- **Early Identification of Hearing Loss:**

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- The school focuses on identifying children with hearing loss within their **first 3 years of life**, ensuring timely intervention and support.
- **Hearing loss** is an **invisible disability**, but it significantly **impacts the quality of life for affected children** and their families.
- **Hearing Awareness Campaigns:**
 - Over **13,400 beneficiaries** have been reached through hearing awareness programs aimed at educating families and communities about the importance of early hearing detection and intervention.
 - These programs help **parents and caregivers understand the signs of hearing loss** and the available resources for support.
- **Free Hearing Screenings:**
 - The school organizes **free hearing screenings** across **Mumbai**, having screened more than **8,700 children (ages 0-6)** for hearing loss.
 - These screenings help identify children with hearing impairments early, opening pathways to timely interventions, education, and speech therapy.

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- **Formal Education for Deaf Children:**

- More than **3,000 profoundly deaf children** have received formal education at The Stephen School, empowering them with the skills needed for academic and personal success.
- The school's programs focus on fostering an **inclusive learning environment**, where every child, regardless of their disability, is encouraged to excel.

- **Speech Therapy and Language Development:**

- **Speech therapy sessions** are provided to children with hearing loss to help them develop essential **speech and language skills**.
- These sessions play a crucial role in enabling students to communicate effectively and integrate into the wider community.

BEYOND ACADEMICS: NURTURING CREATIVITY THROUGH ART

- Children with hearing impairments often exhibit exceptional skills in **non-verbal forms of expression**, such as **visual and kinesthetic arts**.
- These abilities are nurtured through creative outlets like **art competitions**.
- **Art Competition (Mumbai)** - 54 students from **8 different deaf schools participated in this event**, celebrating **talent, diversity, and expression**.
- The students created artwork reflecting their lives and dreams.

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- **Event Impact:**

- The competition boosted the **confidence** and **self-esteem** of the participants, offering them a platform to express their unique abilities.
- The event also highlighted the importance of **inclusion** and **recognition**, with participants feeling empowered and connected to a wider community.

WORLD DISABILITY DAY: CELEBRATING INCLUSIVITY

- **World Disability Day** is an opportunity to celebrate the progress made in creating a more inclusive society for people with disabilities.
- This day serves as a reminder of the **dedication** of professionals, educators, and activists who work tirelessly to ensure people with disabilities, particularly those with hearing loss, have access to **education**, **support**, and **opportunity**.
- The Stephen School invites individuals to **join the mission** by supporting initiatives aimed at empowering children with hearing loss through **volunteering**, **donations**, and **raising awareness** about the importance of **hearing care** and **inclusion**.

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HEALTHCARE IN INDIA

NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY 2017

- The **National Health Policy 2017** was introduced after 15 years to address emerging healthcare challenges in India.
- It was approved by the Cabinet on **15th March 2017**.
- This policy provides a framework for improving healthcare in the country with a focus on **preventive care, accessibility, quality of care, and affordability**.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- **Increase Public Health Expenditure:** Raise government health expenditure progressively to **2.5% of GDP by 2025**.
- **Comprehensive Primary Healthcare:** Expand the reach of primary healthcare through **Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)** to ensure **universal access** to quality health services.
- **Financial Protection:** Ensure healthcare access without financial hardship.

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- **Focus on Primary Healthcare:** Allocate **two-thirds** of resources to primary care, which includes **preventive** and **promotive** healthcare.
- **Partnership with Private Sector:** Leverage private sector expertise to fill healthcare gaps and improve service delivery.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE POLICY

- **Assurance-Based Approach:** The policy focuses on providing **progressive assurance** for healthcare with an emphasis on preventive care.
- **Health Card System:** A **health card** links patients to a defined package of services at **primary care facilities** across the country.
- **Patient-Centric Approach:** Introduces **medical tribunals** for addressing grievances related to healthcare standards, prices, negligence, etc.
- **Micronutrient Deficiency:** Focus on reducing **micronutrient malnutrition**, particularly in underprivileged regions.
- **Quality of Care:** Public health institutions undergo **periodic assessments** for quality standards.

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- **Make-in-India for Healthcare Products:** Incentivize the production of **indigenous healthcare products** to meet domestic needs.
- **Digital Health:** Push for the adoption of **digital tools** for improving healthcare outcomes, with an **integrated health information system** for better transparency and efficiency.
- **Private Sector Engagement:** Strengthen private sector involvement for **critical gap filling** and achievement of national health goals.

Financial Support:

- The government allocated **Rs. 47,352.51 crores** under the **Union Budget 2017-18**, marking a **27.7% increase** in the previous year's budget allocation for the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.

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MCQs

1. Consider the following statements and mark the correct one:

1. Exercise Harimau Shakti is for increasing coordination in Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief.
2. The Mahar Regiment participated in the 2024 edition of this exercise.

- (A) Only 1
(B) Only 2
(C) Both 1 & 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2



Ans. (B)

2. Consider the following statements wrt Exercise CINBAX and mark the correct one:

1. The 2024 edition was the inaugural one.
2. It aims at enhancing cooperation in HADR.
3. Intelligence Sharing is also part of the exercise.

- (A) Only 1
(B) Only 1 & 2
(C) Only 2 & 3
(D) All of the above

Ans. (D)

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3. On which day is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities observed?

- (A) 1 December
- (B) 2 December
- (C) 3 December
- (D) 4 December

Ans. (C)

4. Which of the following are focus areas of National Health Policy 2017?

- 1. Primary Healthcare
- 2. Make in India for healthcare products
- 3. Digitalization in Healthcare

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 1 & 2
- (C) Only 1 & 3
- (D) All of the above.

Ans. (D)

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