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1. Chabahar Day

Syllabus - Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Prelims - India's trade potential with Central Asia through Chabahar Port.

Context - India's commitment towards unlocking the trade potential with the Central Asian region through the use of Chabahar Port in Iran.

Details -

- On the occasion of 'Chabahar Day', Union Ports, Shipping & Waterways Ministry along with the Indian Ports Global Ltd. (IPGL) which was formed to participate in Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar development project, organised a conference in Mumbai, where government ministers interacted with a high-level diplomatic delegation from Central Asian Countries. The Minister also said, "Our vision is to make Chabahar Port a transit hub under the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) to reach out to CIS countries".
- "Chabahar Day" is celebrated to mark the beginning of INSTC - an Indian vision to economise the movement of cargo between India and Central Asia. The Chabahar Port located in Iran is the commercial transit centre for the region, especially Central Asia.
- The INSTC is expected to rationalise logistics costs which will contribute towards the trade volume between the two regions.
- The Chabahar Port will lead to promoting a joint initiative to create a regional and international transport corridor. Apart from providing connectivity, this link will also drive investments thereby supporting cultural and political ties.
- The loading and unloading capacity of the Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar will increase from the current 8.5 million tonnes to 15 million tonnes on completion of Phase 1 of the project.

2. Joint Exercises “AL-NAJAH IV” & “EX VINBAX 2022”

Syllabus - Bilateral exercises involving India.

Prelims - AL-NAJAH IV & EX VINBAX

Context - AL-NAJAH IV - India - Oman joint military exercise & EX VINBAX - India Vietnam Bilateral Army exercise.

Details -

About AL-NAJAH IV:

- The 4th edition of India Oman Joint Military Exercise ‘AL NAJAH-IV’ between contingents of the Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman is scheduled to take place at the Foreign Training Node of Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (Rajasthan) in August 2022. The Royal Army of Oman contingent has arrived at the exercise location. The Indian Army is represented by troops from the 18 Mechanised Infantry Battalion. The previous edition of Ex AL NAJAH IV was organised at Muscat in 2019.
- The joint exercise would focus on Counter Terrorism Operations, Regional Security Operations and Peace Keeping Operations under the United Nations charter apart from organising joint physical training schedules, tactical drills, techniques and procedures.
- The joint military exercise aims to enhance the level of defence cooperation between the Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman and will further manifest in enhancing the bilateral relations between the two nations.

About EX VINBAX 2022:

- The 3rd edition of Vietnam India Bilateral Army Exercise “Ex VINBAX 2022” is scheduled to be conducted at Chandimandir in Aug 2022. The exercise is a sequel to previously conducted bilateral exercise in Vietnam in 2019 and a major milestone in strengthening the bilateral relations between India and Vietnam.
- India and Vietnam share a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and defence cooperation is a key pillar of this partnership.
- Vietnam is an important partner in India’s Act East policy and the Indo-Pacific vision.
- The theme of Ex VINBAX – 2022 is employment and deployment of an Engineer Company and a Medical Team as part of the United Nations Contingent for Peacekeeping Operations.
- The Indian Army is represented by troops from the 105 Engineer Regiment.

2. Commonwealth Games-2022, Birmingham

Syllabus - Miscellaneous (sports-related news)

Prelims - Commonwealth Games, 2022.

Context - Winning of Medals by Indians.

- **Jeremy Lalrinnunga from Mizoram bagged India's second gold in the 67 kg category of weightlifting. Jeremy lifted a total of 300 kg (140 kg in Snatch + 160 kg in C&J) at the games.**
- **Earlier Mirabai Chanu won the first gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2022 by lifting a total of 201 kg in the women's 49 kg weight lifting event.**
- **Sanket Sarkar bagged silver in the men's 55 kg weight lifting event**
- **Gururaja Poojary secured bronze in men's 61 kg weight lifting category.**
- **Weightlifter Bindyarani Devi from Imphal clinched a silver medal in the women's 55 kg at the commonwealth Games.**