

# DAILY PT POINTERS

30<sup>th</sup> March , 2024



The Hindu-Defence(GSIII)-Page 5

## 'Ops like Tiger Triumph will build trust between India, U.S.'

**T. Appala Naidu**  
KAKINADA

U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Joaquin Martinez on Friday said that the defence forces of India and the U.S. would jointly be able to take on any challenge in the Indo-Pacific region as the forces of both nations are independently strong.

He is also the Vice-Commander of the U.S. Navy's Seventh Fleet, based in Japan.

Speaking to newsmen at a joint press conference here on the sidelines of the Indo-U.S. bilateral Human Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise, Tiger Triumph, at the Kakinada Naval base, he added: The relationship between India and the U.S. defence forces has grown immensely. Operations like Tiger Triumph will build trust and confidence in our ability to work together and to respond as an integrated joint force."

Tiger Triumph, the India, U.S. tri-Service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise commenced on the Eastern seaboard on Monday and will continue till March 31.

"The exercise is aimed at developing interoperability for conducting HADR operations and refine Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to enable rapid and smooth coordination between forces of both countries

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### 'GeM may offer works contracts'

The procurement portal wants works contracts for construction projects to also be bid out through the platform with a transparent monitoring mechanism; procurements through the GeM platform this year rises past the ₹4 lakh crore mark

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM), an online platform for public procurement of goods and services, plans to seek the Centre's approval to enable work contracts for construction and building projects to also be bid out through the platform with a transparent monitoring mechanism to assess the progress in such contracts. This is part of a broader reboot of the GeM platform, which is now used for everything from critical

#### Better practices

GeM says it wants to expedite the tendering process for public works contracts and attract contractors across India



■ Currently, the tendering process for public procurement is often time-

■ Platform now used even for defence procurement'

defence procurements to services like aircraft chartering and printing of election-related material, its chief executive officer P. K. Singh said on Friday.

The planned upgrade includes a revamp of its online interface to switch to an open Application Programming Interface (API) architecture, that will al-

low individual departments, States, and local bodies to create customised micro-procurement portals with multi-lingual interfaces and flexibilities for local rules.

On Thursday evening, a service procurement order from the State Bank of India worth about ₹400 crore pushed the total gross merchandise value of procurements done through the GeM platform this year beyond the ₹4 lakh crore mark—double the ₹2.01 lakh crore recorded in 2022-23.

On work contracts, Mr. Singh said the tendering

process is often time-consuming, starting with the need to draft Requests for Proposals that can take six months to a year, and the tendering process often attracts only local contractors and also faces delays.

If the GeM is allowed for such projects, a contractor in Kerala can bid for work in Rajasthan and the project's progress can be monitored online. Milestone-linked payments released electronically which save contractors from having to pursue officers, and post-contract management features can also be included, the GeM CEO said.

- **Government e Marketplace (GeM)** is a 100 percent Government owned & National Public Procurement Portal.
- It is developed to facilitate the procurement of goods and services by various government departments, agencies, and public sector undertakings.
- It was launched in August 2016 as a part of the government's "Digital India" initiative to bring transparency, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness to public procurement. GeM aims to simplify the public procurement process, reduce paperwork, and promote the use of digital technology for government procurement.



## Indian Express-Species(GSIII)-Page 9

### Power threat to the bustard

The Centre has told the SC that it is not possible to put power lines underground in the habitat of the Great Indian Bustard. What is the nature of the threat to the bird, and how valid is the Centre's argument?

JAY MAZOOMDAAR  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

THE SUPREME Court last week said it will review its April 2021 order to bury underground all power lines in the habitat of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB), after the Centre found the order "practically impossible to implement" over long distances.

The court created a seven-member committee that will suggest steps to protect and conserve the GIB, identifying critical areas where power lines may have to go underground.

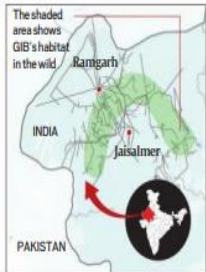
With fewer than 150 individuals of this large, ostrich-like bird species left in the wild, the critically endangered GIB is caught in a deadly maze of power lines that criss-cross its last refuge in the Kutch and Thar deserts of western India.

As these vast, open landscapes also carry the promise of abundant solar and wind energy, the high-tension networks evacuating power are only getting denser with new projects proposed every year.

Following the deaths of a number of birds due to collisions with power lines over the years, the Supreme Court three years ago ordered that the overhead transmission network should be sent underground in key habitats of the GIB.



Devesh Gadhai



Arguments of the Centre



Wij/Bipin CM

Windmills and power transmission lines criss-cross the last refuge of the Great Indian Bustard, in Thar desert.

landscape in the Thar, and ratified 98% of the length for overhead laying.

#### Other threats faced by GIB

Power lines are not the only threat to the GIB. Free-ranging dogs have proliferated alarmingly in the Thar landscape. In 2017, feral packs accounted for up to a third of Chinkara depredation in the DNP.

While GIBs continue to be hunted sporadically, the widespread use of pesticides in farmlands poses a greater risk to the bird. Loss of grassland, particularly nesting sites, and an erosion of support from local communities are other concerns.

In its affidavit, the Centre said the government was working to save the bustard through initiatives such as captive breeding and habitat restoration and protection. Despite teething troubles, efforts at captive breeding succeeded at Sam in Jaisalmer district, when two GIB females laid eggs in captivity and a chick was hatched through artificial incubation in March 2023.

However, the purpose of captive breeding is to supplement the wild population, which is possible only when a sizable habitat is freed of hostile infrastructure. "Burying cables is the priority, since bird diverters are not foolproof. Where undergrounding is not feasible, we should buy the best diverters and spend well on their maintenance. The government has approved CAMDA funds for most

**Great Indian Bustard** is the State bird of Rajasthan.

**Habitat and Distribution :** It inhabits arid and semi-arid grasslands with scattered short scrub and bushes etc. Today the population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Small populations are found in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

**Threats :** It has been facing a threat to their survival because of intensive agricultural practices, laying of power lines and industrialisation.

**Protection status :** Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, in Appendix I of CITES, as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB-Polity and Governance(GSII)

Election Commission

ECI's C-Vigil app a big hit with voters: over 79,000 violations reported so far through the complaints app since announcement of General Elections; 99 % cases disposed off

cVIGIL is an innovative mobile application for citizens to report Model Code of Conduct and Expenditure violations during the elections. 'cVIGIL' stands for Vigilant Citizen and emphasizes the proactive and responsible role citizens can play in the conduct of free and fair elections.

The new cVIGIL app launched by Election Commission of India

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# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB:Defence(GSIII)

Ministry of Defence

### INDIA – MOZAMBIQUE – TANZANIA TRILATERAL (IMT TRILAT 24) EXERCISE CONCLUDES AT NACALA, MOZAMBIQUE

Posted On: 29 MAR 2024 1:01PM by PIB Delhi



- The second edition of India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise concluded at Nacala, Mozambique.
- The week-long exercise underscores the importance of enhanced maritime cooperation and interoperability between the Navies of India, Mozambique, and Tanzania.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

**Air: Miscellaneous**

## Prez Droupadi Murmu To Present Bharat Ratna Awards At Rashtrapati Bhavan



Chaudhary Charan Singh



P V Narasimha Rao



Karpoori Thakur



M. S. Swaminathan



L K Advani



- 'Bharat Ratna', the highest civilian Award of the country, was instituted in the year 1954.
- Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for these awards.
- It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour.
- The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister himself to the President. No formal recommendations for this are necessary. .
- The Award does not carry any monetary grant.