

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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Table of Content

Free Market Capitalism & State Capitalism Models

USA's 50% Tariffs on Indian Exports and Its Implications

India's Electric Leap for Green Mobility

UNGA Launches Two New Initiatives to Strengthen Global Cooperation on AI Governance

India Releases 3 Joint Doctrines For Armed Forces

NEWS IN SHORT

Revised National Action Plan on Glanders

Samvatsari

Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)

Restructuring and Extension of the PM SVANidhi

Brown Dwarfs

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

Exercise Bright Star 2025

FREE MARKET CAPITALISM & STATE CAPITALISM MODELS

Context

- Recently, the US decided to acquire about a 10% equity stake in Intel, using funds originally allocated under the **CHIPS and Science Act of 2022**.
 - It signals a **new era of government intervention** in high-tech sectors defining **state capitalism models**.

Free Market Capitalism & State Capitalism Models

- Free Market Capitalism** is characterized by **private ownership of resources**, voluntary exchange, and limited state regulation.
 - The **role of government** is largely confined to enforcing contracts, protecting property rights, and ensuring market competition.
 - It aligns with **Adam Smith's 'invisible hand'**

theory, where self-interest inadvertently promotes societal welfare.

- Examples:** The United States and historically the UK, where deregulation and privatization have been central policies.
- State Capitalism:** It is defined as a system where the state **owns or controls significant parts of the economy** but still operates within global capitalist markets.
 - In this model, the state acts as both regulator and participant, often investing in industries deemed vital for national security or long-term growth.
 - State-owned enterprises (SOEs), sovereign wealth funds, and government-led industrial policies play crucial roles.
 - Examples:** China, Singapore, and certain Middle Eastern economies where governments dominate finance, energy, or infrastructure.

France's Dirigisme: State-Led Industrial Strategy

- Dirigisme** refers to **France's post-war economic model** characterized by a strong state direction of the economy. It has key features like:
 - State ownership of key industries such as energy, transport, and telecommunications.
 - Strategic investment in sectors deemed vital for national competitiveness, including aerospace, nuclear energy, and computing.
- However, by the 1980s and 1990s, dirigisme faced criticism for fostering inefficiency, stifling innovation, and creating bloated bureaucracies.

Britain's 'National Champion' Strategy

- It is Britain's version of state capitalism by promoting 'national champions'—large firms supported by the government to compete globally. It included:
 - Public subsidies and protection for companies like British Leyland (automobiles), and Rolls-Royce (aerospace).
 - Political backing for mergers and acquisitions aimed at creating scale and global reach.
 - State bailouts during periods of financial distress to preserve strategic capabilities.
- The intent was to **close the 'technology gap' with the US**, but most of the firms struggled with **inefficiency and failed to innovate**, leading to **privatization** waves in the **Thatcher era**.

Strengths and Weaknesses

- Strengths of State Capitalism:** Ability to shield domestic industries during crises (IMF, 2020).
 - Strategic investment in critical sectors (e.g., renewable energy, defense, health, infrastructure).
 - Reduces exposure to speculative bubbles.
- Weaknesses of State Capitalism:** Risks of corruption, inefficiency, and lack of innovation.
 - Political interference may distort long-term economic goals.

- Strengths of Free Market Capitalism:** Encourages innovation and competition.
 - Attracts foreign investment through deregulation and open markets.
 - Efficient in resource allocation when markets function properly.
- Weaknesses of Free Market Capitalism:** Prone to inequality and social exclusion.
 - Vulnerable to financial crises and boom-bust cycles.
 - Weak regulation can lead to monopolies.

Contemporary Global Relevance

- **China vs. US rivalry** embodies the clash between state-led and free-market approaches.
- **India follows a hybrid approach:** partial privatization, and strong state control in banking and infrastructure.
- Many traditionally **free-market economies adopted state-capitalist measures** (subsidies, bailouts, industrial policies), blurring the boundary between the two models, in the wake of COVID-19.

Conclusion

- Free market capitalism fosters dynamism and innovation but risks inequality and instability. State capitalism can deliver stability and strategic growth but risks inefficiency and political manipulation.
- Most modern economies including India operate within a **hybrid spectrum**, combining market incentives with state intervention.

Source: TH

USA'S 50% TARIFFS ON INDIAN EXPORTS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

Context

- The United States has imposed 50% tariffs on a wide range of Indian merchandise exports starting August 27, 2025.

About

- The move combines the 25% tariff announced in July 2025 and an additional 25% "**penalty tariff**" in August 2025 linked to India's purchases of Russian oil and defence imports.

- **Key sectors affected include** textiles, apparel, gems and jewellery, shrimp, carpets, leather, and furniture — all of which are labour-intensive and job-generating industries.
- **Major Goods Exempted from Tariffs:** Pharmaceuticals, Electronics and Petroleum products.

Impact on India's Economy

- **Trade Impact:** India's exports to the US could fall from **\$87 billion in FY25** to \$49.6 billion in FY26, a decline of **43%**.
 - ♦ The US accounts for **20 per cent of merchandise exports** from India and **2 per cent** of the GDP.
- **Domestic Concerns and Industry Demands:**
 - ♦ **Gems & Jewellery Council (GJEPC):** Demanding a duty drawback/ reimbursement scheme covering 25–50% of tariffs to protect competitiveness.
 - ♦ **Textile Industry** is seeking Immediate cash support, Loan moratoriums, Fast-tracking FTAs with the EU and other partners to diversify export markets.
 - ♦ **Job Protection:** Industries fear widespread layoffs in labour-intensive export hubs like Surat (diamonds), Tiruppur (textiles), and Andhra Pradesh (shrimp farming).
- **Competitors Benefiting:** Countries such as Vietnam, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan, and China face lower tariff rates and are expected to capture India's lost market share.

GOODS SUBJECT TO 50% U.S. TARIFF

Product Group	Exports to US in 2024-25
Textiles and apparel	\$10.9 bn
Diamonds, gold and jewellery	\$10 bn
Machinery and mechanical appliances	\$6.7 bn
Agriculture, meat and processed food	\$6.0 bn
Steel, aluminium, copper	\$4.7 bn
Organic chemicals	\$2.7 bn
Shrimps	\$2.4 bn
Handicrafts	\$1.6 bn
Carpets	\$1.2 bn
Leather and footwear	\$1.2 bn
Furniture, bedding, mattresses	\$1.1 bn

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GTRI analysis

India initiatives to mitigate the impact

- **E-Commerce Export Hubs (ECEHs):** Proposed to provide integrated logistics, warehousing, and customs clearance facilities for online exporters.
- **Consultations with Industry Stakeholders:** Ongoing dialogue with MSMEs, global e-commerce giants, and retailers to balance regulatory reforms.
- **Exploring Inventory-Based E-Commerce:** Discussions underway to assess whether this model can reduce compliance burden for MSMEs.
- **Tariff Negotiations:** Efforts are being made to ensure India's sensitive export sectors remain competitive despite global protectionism.

Way Ahead

- **Short-Term Relief Measures:**
 - ♦ Targeted subsidies, duty drawback, or reimbursement schemes for heavily hit sectors.
 - ♦ Temporary financial support packages to prevent job losses.
- **Diversification of Export Markets:**
 - ♦ Accelerate FTA negotiations with EU, UK, and Gulf nations.
 - ♦ Explore African and Latin American markets for textiles, gems, and marine products.
- **Enhancing Competitiveness:** Promote technology adoption, product innovation, and value addition in textiles and gems.

Source: IE

INDIA'S ELECTRIC LEAP FOR GREEN MOBILITY

Context

- India has registered 56.75 lakh electric vehicles by February 2025, reflecting the **rapid adoption of clean mobility**.

About

- Electric two-wheeler (e-2W) sales hit 11.49 lakh units, **up 21% from the previous year's 9.48 lakh**.
- The Government of India has set a vision to achieve **30% EV penetration by 2030**, aligning with the **global EV30@30 initiative**.
- India has set its sights on an ambitious green horizon, **aiming to slash projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes by 2030**.
- India also aims to cut the economy's carbon intensity to **below 45% by 2030** and ultimately transform into a **net-zero nation by 2070**.

What are Electric Vehicles?

- An electric vehicle (EV) operates on an **electric motor**, instead of an internal-combustion engine that generates power by burning a mix of fuel and gases.
- Therefore, such a vehicle is seen as a possible **replacement for current-generation automobiles** in order to address the issue of rising pollution, global warming, depleting natural resources, etc.



Challenges in Adoption

- **High Initial Cost:** The upfront cost of purchasing an electric vehicle in India is relatively high compared to traditional internal combustion engine vehicles.
 - ♦ This cost includes not only the vehicle itself but also the cost of batteries.
- **Limited Charging Infrastructure:** The availability of charging infrastructure remains a significant barrier to EV adoption in India.
- **Range Anxiety:** Range anxiety, or the fear of running out of battery charge before reaching a charging station, is a prevalent concern among Indian consumers considering EVs.
- **Battery Technology and Supply Chain:** India relies heavily on imported lithium-ion batteries, which increases costs and makes EVs vulnerable to supply chain disruptions.
- **Consumer Awareness and Education:** Many consumers in India lack awareness and understanding of electric vehicles, including their benefits, technology, and available models.

Government Initiatives

- **National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (2020) and FAME-I:** NEMMP was brought into effect

to accelerate the adoption and production of electric vehicles (EVs).

- ♦ As part of this mission, the FAME India Scheme (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) was implemented from 2015 to 2019 to encourage the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles.
- **FAMEII (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) — Phase II:** Launched in 2019, the scheme focuses on increasing EV adoption, expanding the e-bus network, and strengthening the charging infrastructure.
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Component Industry in India (PLI-Auto):** Launched in 2021, the scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technologies (AAT).
 - ♦ Major players like Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra have stepped up with significant EV production investments.
 - ♦ A key mandate is that companies must ensure at least 50% domestic value addition (DVA) to qualify for incentives.
- **PM E-Drive:** The scheme was launched in 2024 and is being implemented until 2028.
 - ♦ The key objective is to speed up the transition to electric vehicles by offering upfront incentives for EV purchases and encouraging the development of charging infrastructure.
- **Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India 2024 (SPMEPCI):** To draw global automakers to invest, the scheme grants approved applicants a five-year window to import Completely Built-in Units (CBUs) of electric four-wheelers (e-4W) valued at a minimum CIF (Cost, Insurance, and Freight) of USD 35,000 at a significantly reduced customs duty of 15%.
- **India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI):** NITI Aayog unveiled the India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) in 2025. It is designed to track, measure, and compare how States and Union Territories are progressing on their electric mobility ambitions.
 - ♦ Based on these results, regions are ranked as frontrunners with thriving ecosystems; Delhi, Maharashtra, and Chandigarh are leading as 'Frontrunners' in the recent IEMI score.

Suggestions by NITI Aayog

- **Moving from incentives to Mandates:** Announce a clear policy, with target timelines, for Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) adoption.
 - ♦ Design a progressively more stringent plan for mandating the production and purchase of EVs and disincentivising the continued use/production of ICE vehicles.
- **Saturation instead of thin distribution:** Design and start a saturation program to support 5 cities over 5 years.
 - ♦ Have entities in the States to manage this program.
 - ♦ Scale up to 20 cities and then to 100 cities.
- **Enable financing for e-Buses and e-Trucks:** Create a pooled fund with contributions from the public budget and multilateral institutions.
 - ♦ Design and launch an appropriate scheme to channel the funds.
- **Scale up research for new battery technologies:** Set up an academia-industry-government partnership for accelerating research on new battery chemistries.

Source: PIB

UNGA LAUNCHES TWO NEW INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN GLOBAL COOPERATION ON AI GOVERNANCE

Context

- The United Nations Secretary-General has praised a decision by the **UN General Assembly** to create **two new institutional mechanisms** to enhance global cooperation on AI governance.

About

- These are the **United Nations Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance**.
- The panels aim to address AI's benefits and risks, fostering international collaboration and informed policymaking.

The Two Mechanisms

- **Global Dialogue on AI Governance:**
 - ♦ **Purpose:** An inclusive UN platform for states and stakeholders.
 - ♦ **Function:** Forum to discuss critical AI issues humanity is facing today.

- **United Nations Independent International Scientific Panel on AI:**

- ♦ **Purpose:** Designed as an inclusive multi-stakeholder forum within the United Nations where member states, civil society, academia, and the private sector can engage in discussions on key AI challenges and governance issues.
- ♦ Annual sessions are scheduled for **July 2026 in Geneva and July 2027** in New York.

Significance

- Called a “pathbreaking milestone” by the United Nations Secretary-General.
- Aims to balance AI benefits and risks, while fostering international collaboration.
- Ensures AI development aligns with humanity’s collective good.

Artificial Intelligence

- Artificial intelligence (AI) is a **wide-ranging branch of computer science** concerned with **building smart machines** capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence.
- Artificial intelligence allows machines to model, or even improve upon, the **capabilities of the human mind**.
- From the development of self-driving cars to the proliferation of generative AI tools like ChatGPT, AI is increasingly becoming part of everyday life — and an area every industry is investing in.

Why do we need rules on AI?

- **Ethical Concerns:** AI systems can make decisions and take actions that impact individuals and society.
 - ♦ Establishing rules helps address ethical concerns related to the use of AI, ensuring that it aligns with human values and respects fundamental rights.
- **Privacy:** AI often involves the processing of large amounts of data. Rules can help protect individual privacy by specifying how data should be collected, stored, and used.
- **Security:** This includes safeguarding against potential vulnerabilities and protecting against malicious uses of AI technology.
- **Transparency:** Rules can mandate transparency in AI systems, requiring developers to disclose how their algorithms work.
- **Competition and Innovation:** Establishing a regulatory framework provides a level playing

field for businesses, preventing the abuse of market dominance and encouraging responsible innovation.

- **Public Safety:** In cases where AI is used in critical domains such as healthcare, transportation, or public infrastructure, rules are essential to ensure the safety of individuals and the general public.

Regulation of AI in India

- **India does not have a dedicated AI law yet.** AI is governed indirectly through existing legal frameworks:
 - ♦ **IT Act, 2000:** Covers cybercrimes, intermediary liability.
 - ♦ **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023:** Ensures data privacy and consent.
 - ♦ IPR laws (Copyright & Patents Acts): Relevant for AI-generated works and innovation.
- **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence:** India is a member of the GPAI. The 2023 GPAI Summit was held in New Delhi, where GPAI experts presented their work on responsible AI, data governance, and the future of work, innovation, and commercialization.
- **The National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence #AIForAll strategy, by NITI Aayog:** It featured AI research and development guidelines focused on healthcare, agriculture, education, “smart” cities and infrastructure, and smart mobility and transformation.
- **Principles for Responsible AI:** In February 2021, the NITI Aayog released Principles for Responsible AI, an approach paper that explores the various ethical considerations of deploying AI solutions in India.

Challenges of Regulation

- **Rapid Evolution of AI:** The field is constantly evolving, making it difficult to write future-proof regulations.
- **Balancing Innovation and Safety:** Striking a balance between fostering innovation and ensuring safety is a challenge.
- **International Cooperation:** Effective AI regulation requires international cooperation to avoid a fragmented landscape.
- **Defining AI:** There’s no universally agreed-upon definition of AI, making it difficult to regulate effectively.

Way Ahead:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) is here to stay and possesses the capability to fundamentally change

the way in which we work. It is a far greater force and needs to be regulated.

- By acknowledging the potential dangers of AI and proactively taking steps to mitigate them, we can ensure that this transformative technology serves humanity and contributes to a safer, more equitable future.

Source: DTE

INDIA RELEASES 3 JOINT DOCTRINES FOR ARMED FORCES

Context

- The Indian Armed Forces are moving steadily towards **greater jointness, integration, and theaterisation**.
 - ♦ In this direction, the Ministry of Defence has recently cleared **three new Joint Doctrines**, at the **'Ran Samvad' 2025 seminar** at the Army War College in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.

Joint Military Doctrines released

- **Joint Doctrine for Special Forces Operations:** Brings together Army's Para (SF), Navy's

MARCOS, and IAF's Garuds under a unified framework.

- ♦ Seeks common understanding, shared terminology, and standard operating procedures.
- ♦ Focus areas are joint training to reduce duplication, future weapon profiles for interoperability & unified Command & Control structures across land, maritime, and air.
- **Joint Doctrine for Airborne and Heliborne Operations:** Aims for seamless coordination in para-drop and heli-lift missions.
 - ♦ Standardises planning and execution procedures across Army, Navy, and Air Force.
 - ♦ Emphasis on integrating advanced air mobility assets (heavy-lift helicopters, transport aircraft), unmanned aerial systems (UAS) for real-time intelligence.
- **Joint Doctrine for Multi-Domain Operations (MDO):** Stresses integration across land, sea, air, space, and cyber to counter adversaries operating below conflict thresholds; calls for advanced technologies, innovative structures, and fully networked joint operations.

Integrated Theatre Command

- It is a unified command in which the **resources of all the services are unified** under a single commander looking at a geographical theatre.
- The commander of a joint command will **have the freedom to train and equip** his/her command as per the objective and will have logistics of all the services at his beckoning.
 - ♦ The three services will retain their independent identities as well.
- A committee headed by **Lieutenant General D B Shekatkar** had recommended three commands:
 - ♦ **Northern Command** to address threats from China.
 - ♦ **Western Command** to counter challenges from Pakistan.
 - ♦ **Southern Command** to safeguard maritime interests.
- **Current Structure:**
 - ♦ **17 separate commands:** Army (7), Air Force (7), Navy (3).
 - ♦ Each Service operates independently, though under broad CDS (Chief of Defence Staff) coordination.
 - ♦ **Also there are two Unified Commands:** Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) and **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)** responsible for nuclear assets.

About the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

- Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).
- Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister on tri-service matters.
- Key role in:
 - ♦ Driving jointness and theaterisation.
 - ♦ Integrating capability development and procurement.
 - ♦ Coordinating between Army, Navy, Air Force, and civilian leadership.

Source: TH

NEWS IN SHORT

REVISED NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON GLANDERS

In News

- A revised **National Action Plan on Glanders** was recently issued by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

Glanders

- It is an infectious and life-threatening disease that mainly affects horses, donkeys or mules caused by the **bacterium Burkholderia mallei**.
 - It can be transmitted to humans.
- It spreads to carnivores through infected meat and can be transmitted to humans, causing various forms such as nasal, pulmonary, or septic infections.
- It has been eradicated in North America, Australia, and Europe but still occurs sporadically in parts of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and South America.
- Glanders is notifiable under the **Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals (PCICDA) Act, 2009**.

Source :PIB

SAMVATSARI

In News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended greetings to citizens on the **occasion of Samvatsari**, describing it as a festival that embodies the spirit of forgiveness and compassion.

Samvatsari

- It is the sacred concluding day of the **Jain Paryushan Parva**, highlighting its themes of forgiveness, compassion, and reconciliation.
- The festival's message of **humility, kindness, and strengthening** relationships, urging people to embody these values.
- On this day, followers of Jainism traditionally say "**Micchami Dukkadam**" which involves seeking and granting forgiveness for any harm caused, promoting spiritual peace.

- Paryushan is a Jain festival of spiritual reflection and renunciation. It is observed by both the Shwetambara and Digambar Jain sects.

Source :PIB

UNIFIED DISTRICT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR EDUCATION PLUS (UDISE+)

In News

- Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has partnered with the Department of School Education to integrate **Mandatory Biometric Update (MBU)** status for Aadhaar-linked school children into the **UDISE+ system**.

The Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)

- It is an educational management information system under the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education.
- It functions as a central platform that enables respective schools to efficiently record and submit data related to its profile (infrastructure & facilities), individual students and teachers' details.
- The data is validated and monitored at multiple administrative levels, making UDISE+ one of the largest and most reliable sources of official education statistics for the ministry.

Source :PIB

RESTRUCTURING AND EXTENSION OF THE PM SVANIDHI

Context

- The Union Cabinet approved the restructuring of the **PM SVANidhi loan scheme for street vendors**, extending it till March 31, 2030, and enhancing the loan amount.

About

Background:

- Launched:** June 2020, as part of the government's COVID-19 economic relief package.
- Objective:** Provide affordable working capital loans to street vendors affected by the pandemic.

Recent Updates:

- Extension:** Cabinet approved extension of lending period from Dec 31, 2024, to Mar 31, 2030.
- Implementing Agencies:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs & Department of Financial Services.

• Key Features of the Restructured Scheme:

- ♦ **Enhanced Loan Amounts:** Higher loan limits under the first and second tranches.
- ♦ **Digital Empowerment:** UPI-linked RuPay Credit Card for beneficiaries after repayment of the second loan.
- ♦ Cashback incentives for digital retail and wholesale transactions.
- ♦ **Expanded Coverage:** Beyond statutory towns, it now includes census towns, peri-urban areas in a graded manner.

Significance

- Provides reliable finance for business expansion.
- Promotes digital inclusion and financial literacy among vendors.
- Ensures the holistic development of street vendors and their families.
- Supports sustainable livelihood creation.

Source: IE

BROWN DWARFS

Context

- A team of scientists has discovered an **extremely rare quadruple star system** in the Milky Way, according to a new study.
 - ♦ The system — **known as UPM J1040–3551 AabBab** — consists of a pair of **cold brown dwarfs** orbiting a pair of young red dwarf stars, a configuration never seen before.

What are brown dwarfs?

- **Brown dwarfs** are **celestial bodies** that share some **similarities with stars and others with planets**.
 - ♦ These objects form **like stars from collapsing clouds of gas and dust**. However, they do not have enough mass to consistently fuse hydrogen, a process that heats a star and makes it shine. That is why they are often known as **“failed stars”**.
- They have **atmospheres similar to gas giant planets** such as Jupiter and Saturn.
 - ♦ Their atmospheres can consist of clouds and molecules like H₂O.
 - ♦ Brown dwarfs can also be up to **70 times more massive than Jupiter**.
- **Significance:**
 - ♦ They help astronomers better understand the conditions that are necessary for the formation of stars and planets.

- ♦ Determining the abundance and distribution of brown dwarfs gives key information on the distribution of mass in the universe to astronomers.

Source: IE

NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE (NDRF)

Context

- A Supreme Court-appointed committee has given conditional approval for the construction of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) headquarters on an ecologically sensitive plot in the Morphological Ridge area of Delhi.

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

- NDRF is a specialized force under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** dedicated to disaster response in India.
- It was constituted under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**, following the establishment of the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**.
- **Composition:** 16 battalions, drawn on deputation from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) such as BSF, CISF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB, and Assam Rifles.
- **Mandate & Role:**
 - ♦ It responds to **natural and man-made disasters**, such as **floods, earthquakes, and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN)** emergencies.
 - ♦ Focus on **“proactive deployment”** and **“pre-positioning”** during imminent disasters to minimize loss of life and property.
- **Motto:** “Aapda Seva Sadaiv Sarvatra” (Disaster service always, everywhere).

Source: IE

EXERCISE BRIGHT STAR 2025

Context

- Over **700 Indian Armed Forces personnel** are set to participate in **Exercise Bright Star 2025**.

About the Exercise

- Exercise Bright Star is a **multilateral exercise** hosted by Egypt in conjunction with the US since

1980 and is amongst the largest **Tri-Service multilateral exercises** in the region.

- The exercise is held **biennially**, with the last edition having taken place in 2023, which witnessed the participation of a host of nations including **India** along with troops.

Significance

- Participation of the Indian Armed Forces in this exercise underscores India's commitment to regional peace, stability, and security while enhancing Jointness, interoperability and cooperation with friendly foreign countries.

Source: PIB

