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## Exercise Desert Flag-VI



- Exercise Desert Flag –VI successfully culminated today with de-induction of the Indian contingent from UAE.
- Ex Desert Flag is an annual multi-lateral large force employment exercise hosted by UAE.
- The sixth edition of the exercise was conducted from 04 Mar to 27 Mar 21 at Air Force Base Al Dhafra, UAE.
- IAF participated in the exercise for the first time, fielding Su-30MKI fighter aircraft.
- Six countries; UAE, USA, France, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain apart from India participated with aerial assets.
- Jordan, Greece, Qatar, Egypt and South Korea participated as observer forces.
- The objectives for the exercise were to expose coalition participating forces to large force employment, sharpen tactical capabilities, and enhance interoperability along with fostering closer relations between the participating forces.
- The aim for the participating crew and specialist observers was to expose them to operational environment in scenarios requiring multinational forces working together.
- Timely and seamless induction and de-induction was facilitated by IAF C-17 Globe master aircraft.
- A multinational Exercise in UAE with friendly forces afforded a unique opportunity to gain valuable learning to all the participating forces.
- The knowledge gained, lessons learnt and bonds made during the course of Ex Desert Flag-VI will go a long way in bolstering professional capabilities of the participating forces.

## Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)

### App



- It aims to achieve the goal of financial literacy, spreading awareness and education among investors.
- The IEPFA App will have the facility of tracking the status and progress of the IEPF claim and refund process.
- The app will also provide a mechanism for investors and common citizens to report on suspected fraudulent schemes.

- IEPF has been established under the Companies Act, 1956 by the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999.
- IEPF Fund has been established for the promotion of investors awareness and protection of the interests of investors.
- If the amounts such as dividends, applications money, matured deposits, etc. remained unpaid or unclaimed for a period of 7 years, then they will be transferred to the IEPF.
- The amounts credited to IEPF are maintained under the consolidated fund of India (Article 266 of the Constitution).
- The fund is utilized for promoting investor awareness and protection of investor interests.
- Based on the order of the court, the Fund can also be utilized for distribution of any disgorged amount among eligible applicants who suffered losses due to wrong actions by any person.
- IEPF has been set up under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs as a statutory body under the Companies Act 2013.

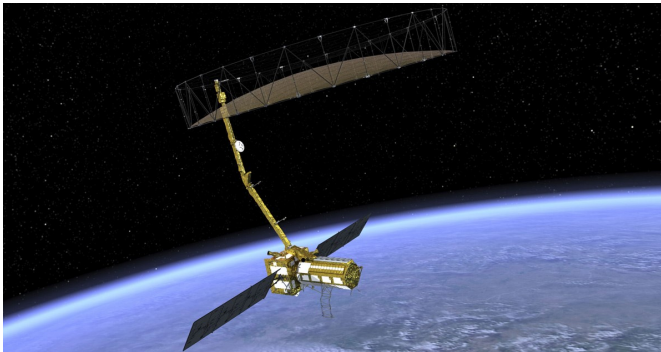
## **New species of red algae seen in west, south east Indian coast**



- Named *Hypnea indica* (after India) and *Hypnea bullata* (because of the blisterlike marks on its body – bullate), the seaweeds are part of the genus *Hypnea* or red seaweeds.
- They grow in the intertidal regions of the coast, namely the area that is submerged during the high tide and exposed during low tides.
- The discovery was recorded in the journal *Botanica Marina*.
- *Hypnea indica* was discovered Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu, and Somnath Pathan and Sivrajpur in Gujarat, *Hypnea bullata* was discovered from Kanyakumari and Diu island of Daman and Diu.
- Species of *Hypnea* contain the biomolecule carrageenan, which is widely used in the food industry.
- As the two species have been found on the west and south east coasts of India, it suggests good prospects for their cultivation which can be put to good use economically.
- The study also reports one other species of *Hypnea* for the first time in Indian coasts, *Hypnea nidifica*.

- The extensive calcareous deposits on the body that has been observed also provides room for thought.
- Several recent studies have shown that algae with calcareous mineral deposits are prone for the damage from ocean acidification – an aftermath of climate change.
- As carbon dioxide in the atmosphere gets dissolved in ocean waters, the seawater becomes more acidic.
- Algae like Hypnea cannot survive in acidic seawater, hence, the only way to help these species is to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide levels by adopting sustainable lifestyle choices.

## NISAR



- The name NISAR is short for NASA-ISRO-SAR. SAR here refers to the synthetic aperture radar that NASA will use to measure changes in the surface of the Earth.
- SAR refers to a technique for producing high-resolution images.
- Because of the precision, the radar can penetrate clouds and darkness, which means that it can collect data day and night in any weather.
- The satellite will be launched in 2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, India, into a near-polar orbit.
- It will scan the globe every 12 days over the course of its three-year mission of imaging the Earth's land, ice sheets and sea ice to give an "unprecedented" view of the planet.
- It will detect movements of the planet's surface as small as 0.4 inches over areas about half the size of a tennis court.
- NASA will provide one of the radars for the satellite, a high-rate communication subsystem for science data, GPS receivers and a payload data subsystem.
- ISRO will provide the spacecraft bus, the second type of radar (called the S-band radar), the launch vehicle and associated launch services.
- NISAR will be equipped with the largest reflector antenna ever launched by NASA and its primary goals include tracking subtle changes in the Earth's surface, spotting warning signs of imminent volcanic eruptions, helping to monitor groundwater supplies and tracking the rate at which ice sheets are melting.

## Lachit Borphukan of Ahom Kingdom



- Recently, the Prime Minister called 17th century Ahom general Lachit Borphukan a symbol of India's "Atma Nirbhar military might".
- He was a commander in the Ahom kingdom.
- Known for his leadership in the 1671 Battle of Saraighat that thwarted a drawn-out attempt by Mughal forces under the command of Ramsingh I to take over Ahom kingdom.

- The battle of Saraighat was fought on the banks of the Brahmaputra in Guwahati.
- The National Defence Academy (NDA), ever since 1999 has been conferring the best passing out cadet with the Lachit Borphukan gold medal.

### Battle of Saraighat

- It is regarded as one of the great battles fought between the mighty Mughal and the Ahom Kingdom.
- It was fought on the Brahmaputra River near Saraighat between the Mughal Empire and the Ahom Kingdom in 1671.
- It was the last major engagement in which the Mughals' attempt to extend their empire into Assam was foiled .
- The battle was a decisive one but it didn't bring the Mughal- Ahom conflict to an end.
- Later in the battle of Itakhuli in 1682 the Mughal presence in Assam came to an end.

## Laddoos made with cereals, pulses dating back 4,000 years found at Harappan site



- People living during the Harappan civilisation around 4,000 years ago, have been found consuming high-protein, multigrain 'laddoos', according to a study.
- Scientific study of the material found during an excavation in Rajasthan has revealed this.
- At least seven 'laddoos' were discovered in 2017 during excavation of a Harappan archaeological site in Binjor in western Rajasthan.



## France applies for UNESCO heritage status for the baguette



- Some 10 billion baguettes are consumed in France each year, according to data site Plane to scope, but about 20,000 bakeries have closed since 1970, as shoppers go to bigger supermarkets instead, where the baguettes are typically not made using traditional methods.
- Bakers say the UNESCO listing would protect a know-how that has passed through generations and shield the baguette from imposters around the world.
- The UNESCO “intangible heritage” marker - meant to recognise oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and methods of traditional craftsmanship - already covers ancient methods of making flat breads in Iran and Kazakhstan.
- The craft behind 1,500 or more beers brewed in Belgium has been recognised, as has the Neapolitan art of pizza twirling.
- A 1993 French government decree dictates that “traditional” baguettes must be made from nothing more than the four classic ingredients.
- Fermentation of the dough should last 15 to 20 hours in a temperature between 4 to 6 degrees Celsius.
- A baguette is a long, thin loaf of French bread that is commonly made from basic lean dough. It is distinguishable by its length and crisp crust.