



**TATHASTU**  
Institute of Civil Services

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



**3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2024**



S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	THE NAUTICAL DILEMMA: A LOOK INTO THE CRIME OF PIRACY AND MARITIME RESPONSES
2.	GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX
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## THE NAUTICAL DILEMMA: A LOOK INTO THE CRIME OF PIRACY AND MARITIME RESPONSES

**SOURCE:** [INDIAN EXPRESS](#)

**TAG:** GS Paper II- **India and its Neighborhood – Relations,**

GS Paper III- **Security, Maritime Security, Security Challenges & their Management**

### Mains Practice Question:

**Q. Examine the legal and jurisdictional challenges associated with handling captured pirates in the context of maritime security. (150 words)**

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the **Indian Navy thwarted two piracy attempts off the Somali coast within a span of 36 hours.**
- Officials reported that the **Indian Navy's Rapid Patrol Aircraft (RPA)** identified suspicious activity on January 31 aboard the FV Omari.
- In response, **INS Sharda, actively involved in anti-piracy efforts,** was swiftly deployed. Following an attack by pirates, **Indian warship INS Sharda promptly came to the aid of the vessel FV Omari, safeguarding its 11 Iranian and eight Pakistani crew members.**

### WHAT IS MARIRIME CRIME?

- The **maritime crime of piracy encompasses a spectrum of unlawful activities** committed at sea, ranging from minor theft from ships at sea or at anchorages to more severe offenses such as **armed robbery and ship hijacking for ransom.**
- Of particular concern is the latter, as it **induces widespread fear in the maritime industry,** prompting the identification of high-risk areas and subsequent spikes in maritime insurance premiums.
- **Beyond economic implications, piracy jeopardizes the safety of both ships and seafarers, and disrupts global supply chains.** The **gravity of piracy is underscored** by its **potential to create panic, economic instability, and operational challenges within the maritime sector.**

### THE PREVALENCE OF PIRACY IN THE REGION CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO FOLLOWING FACTORS:

Piracy is as old as seafaring itself, and has existed for centuries in various forms. In recent years, waters off the west coast of Africa, Gulf of Aden, Horn of Africa, Bangladesh, and the Strait of Malacca have seen attacks by pirates. In essence, a combination of weak policing, strategic shipping routes, socio-economic challenges, and jurisdictional complexities contribute to the susceptibility of these specific maritime areas to pirate activities.

#### 1. **Inadequate Policing:**

- These areas suffer from insufficient maritime policing, with coastal countries having weak or non-existent maritime forces.

#### 2. **High Shipping Traffic:**

- The targeted regions are often characterized by high concentrations of shipping traffic. This may occur due to geographical features that create choke points or anchorages, compelling ships to converge or slow down.

#### 3. **Governance Issues:**

- Regions affected by piracy often experience poor governance or internal turmoil on land, resulting in



issues such as unemployment, poverty, and subsequently, an increase in criminal activities.

**4. International Jurisdiction Complexity:**

- Many of these areas fall within international waters, international straits, or archipelagic waters, subject to the maritime jurisdiction of multiple countries. This leads to legal complexities and challenges in coordinating efforts to combat piracy.

## WHO ARE PIRATES? AND THEIR MODUS OPERANDI?

➤ The **pirates operating off Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden are often individuals facing extreme poverty**, compelled by desperate circumstances to engage in criminal activities at sea. Unlike the fictionalized portrayal of pirates, these individuals are not swashbuckling characters but rather **individuals struggling to survive**.

➤ **Modus Operandi:**

The pirates' modus operandi exploits vulnerabilities such as the low freeboard of target ships, the element of surprise, and the small crews on merchant vessels. The preference for ransom payments over resistance contributes to the success of their criminal activities at sea.

**1. Pirate Mother Ship and Skiffs:**

- The pirate operation typically involves a larger vessel known as the pirate mother ship. This vessel carries essential supplies, ammunition, and stores. Accompanying the mother ship are smaller, high-speed skiffs. These skiffs, resembling low-freeboard country fishing craft, are equipped with powerful outboard motors, enabling speeds exceeding 40 knots.

**2. Selection of Targets:**

- Pirates identify potential targets, preferably slow-moving vessels with a low freeboard. The choice of a lone ship is common, making it easier for the pirates to approach undetected.

**3. Stealth Approach:**

- The small size of the skiffs allows them to evade detection on the radar of the target ship until they are in very close proximity. This is especially effective, as merchant ships, with their small crews, may have limited personnel on watch at any given time.

**4. Boarding the Target:**

- The pirates employ grapnels and ladders to board the target ship swiftly. The element of surprise, coupled with the high speed of the skiffs, makes it challenging for the targeted vessel to mount an effective defence.

**5. Intimidation and Ransom:**

- Armed with small arms or, in some cases, a rocket launcher, the pirates intimidate the small, unarmed crew of the merchant ship. Crew members often receive orders not to resist to prevent damage to the vessel and its cargo. Ship-owners may choose to pay a ransom for the release of the ship and to avoid legal complications.

**6. Distress Signal and Reporting:**

- Once boarded, the ship's crew typically locks themselves in a safe zone and sends out a distress signal. Piracy reporting centres and maritime safety agencies monitor these signals, facilitating coordination of response efforts.

## HOW TO TACKLE MARITIME CRIME?

Addressing the crime of piracy **involves a dual approach, recognizing its roots in both maritime and land-based issues:**

**1. Land-Based Solutions:**

- **Stability and Governance:** Addressing the root causes of piracy involves tackling instability and misgovernance on land. This necessitates efforts by concerned states and international diplomacy to enhance stability, strengthen governance structures, and address socio-economic issues that contribute to piracy.

**2. Maritime Solutions:**

- **International Collaboration:** Given the transnational nature of piracy, global cooperation is essential. Countries and international organizations need to collaborate on intelligence sharing, coordinated



patrols, and joint operations to combat piracy effectively.

- **Naval Presence and Patrolling:** Maintaining a visible naval presence in piracy-prone areas and conducting regular patrolling can act as a deterrent and help in swift responses to piracy incidents.
- **Capacity Building:** Supporting coastal countries in building and strengthening their maritime forces is crucial. This involves providing training, resources, and technology to enhance their ability to police and secure their waters effectively.
- **Legal Frameworks:** Developing and enforcing comprehensive legal frameworks to prosecute pirates is vital. This includes international agreements, treaties, and domestic legislation that empower states to take legal action against individuals involved in piracy.
- **Public-Private Collaboration:** Collaboration between governments and the private sector, particularly the shipping industry, is essential. This can involve sharing information, implementing best practices for vessel security, and developing technology solutions to enhance maritime security.

## WHAT ARE THE INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES TO CONTROL PIRACY?

### ➤ Global Initiatives Related to Maritime Piracy

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	It establishes the legal framework for combating piracy, as outlined in. The UN Security Council and General Assembly have consistently emphasized on the application of UNCLOS in combating maritime threats.
Operation Prosperity Guardian	The United States has initiated Operation Prosperity Guardian, a multinational security initiative to ensure security in the Red Sea.
Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the safety of Maritime Navigation (1988)	It is a multilateral treaty. The main purpose of the treaty is to ensure that appropriate action is taken against people who commit unlawful acts against ships. It was adopted in 1988 at the Suppression of Unlawful Acts(SUA) Convention in Rome.
Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)	The CMF is a multinational naval partnership with primary focus areas aimed at defeating terrorism, preventing piracy, fostering regional cooperation, and promoting a secure maritime environment. CMF has 39 member nations including India.

### India's Initiatives Related to Maritime Piracy:

1. SAGAR policy.
2. India has reiterated its support for the UN Convention on Law of Sea (UNCLOS).
3. International Fusion Centre (IFC).
4. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

## ROLE OF INDIAN NAVY

The Indian Navy has played a significant and proactive role in addressing the issue of piracy, particularly in the troubled waters off the **Horn of Africa** and **the Gulf of Aden**.

### 1. Anti-Piracy Patrols:

- The Indian Navy initiated anti-piracy patrols in the region in 2008 and has sustained these efforts over the years. This **ongoing commitment underscores the navy's dedication to ensuring maritime security**.

### 2. Proactive Interventions:

- The **Indian Navy has a track record of proactively intervening in developing situations, demonstrating a readiness to engage in anti-piracy operations**. This proactive stance has resulted in the prevention of several hijacking attempts by pirates targeting merchant ships.

### 3. Boundary Expansion:

- **During the peak of Somali piracy (2009-2012), the Indian Navy played a crucial role in pushing back the boundaries of the high-risk area** that covered a significant portion of the Arabian Sea. This



achievement reflects the navy's efforts in curbing piracy and enhancing maritime security.

**4. Intervention and Rescue Operations:**

- Recent operations, such as the coordinated rescue of the Sri Lankan fishing trawler Lorenzo Putha on January 29 in collaboration with the Sri Lankan and Seychelles navies, highlight the continued **professionalism and effectiveness of the Indian Navy in addressing maritime challenges.**

**5. Timely Rescues:**

- Instances like the rapid rescue of two Iranian-flagged boats with Iranian and Pakistani crew by the Offshore Patrol Vessel INS Sumitra within 36 hours showcase the navy's ability to swiftly respond to and respond accordingly.

## CHALLENGES

After pirates have been subdued, handling them poses significant legal challenges.

**1. Legal Challenges:**

- National laws are often insufficient to address the complexities of prosecuting apprehended pirates. Additionally, there is a lack of an effective international legal framework for the trial and disposal of pirates.

**2. Jurisdictional Issues:**

- The involvement of multiple nationalities, countries, maritime zones, and flag states creates intricate jurisdictional challenges. Determining which legal jurisdiction should handle the prosecution further complicates the process.

**3. Disposal of Captured Pirates:**

- Captured pirates are typically disarmed, and their boats are rendered inoperable by draining them of fuel. This is done to prevent the pirates from undertaking further attacks. However, the effectiveness of this approach is limited, as pirates may find their way back ashore to engage in criminal activities once again.

**4. Return to Piracy:**

- Despite efforts to disable their vessels, captured pirates often manage to return to piracy. The lack of a robust legal framework and the absence of long-term solutions to address the root causes of piracy contribute to this recurring cycle.

**5. Handover to Coastal States:**

- In some cases, captured pirates are handed over to coastal states for legal proceedings. This is done in an attempt to navigate the challenges posed by jurisdictional complexities and ensure that pirates face legal consequences for their actions.

## CONCLUSION

- The ultimate solution to the piracy problem lies in addressing the root causes, including misgovernance and unemployment in nations ashore. By promoting stability and economic opportunities in these regions, the conditions that foster maritime criminal activities can be mitigated.
- While short-term measures like disarming and disabling pirate vessels are taken, a comprehensive and effective resolution to piracy requires international collaboration, a robust legal framework, and addressing the socio-economic issues that contribute to criminal activities at sea. Until the root causes are addressed, maritime forces will continue to play a crucial role in ensuring mercantile peace and countering piracy periodically.
- In summary, the **Indian Navy has been at the forefront of combating piracy in the region**, actively engaging in patrols, interventions, and rescue operations **to uphold maritime security and protect vessels from pirate threats.**



## GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX

**SOURCE:** THE INDIAN EXPRESS

**TAG:** GS Paper II- **Human Resource**

GS Paper III- **Poverty, Growth & Development, Inclusive Growth**

**Q. The Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index developed by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative with UNDP support covers which of the following? (2012)**

1. Deprivation of education, health, assets and services at household level
2. Purchasing power parity at national level
3. Extent of budget deficit and GDP growth rate at national level

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)

**Mains Practice Question:**

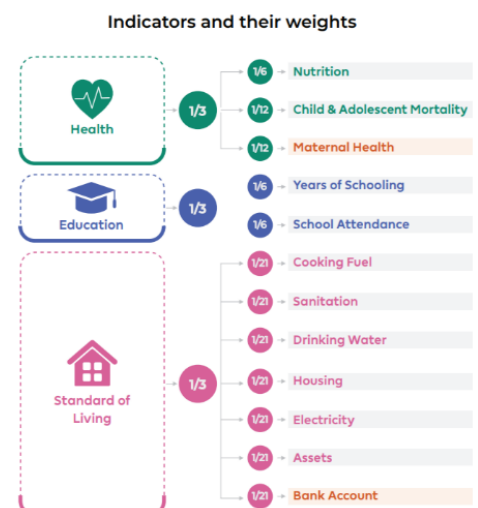
**Q. Despite Consistent experience of high growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive. (2016)**

### WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ In her Interim Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said 25 crore Indians had been pulled out of poverty over the past decade. “With the pursuit of ‘Sabka ka Saath’ in these 10 years, the Government has assisted 25 crore people to get freedom from multidimensional poverty,” she said.

### WHAT IS THE GLOBAL MPI?

- ❖ The global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is an international measure of acute multidimensional poverty covering over 100 developing countries. It complements traditional monetary poverty measures by capturing the acute deprivations in health, education, and living standards that a person faces simultaneously.
- ❖ The MPI approaches poverty differently. Globally, the MPI uses 10 indicators covering three main areas: (i) health, (ii) education, and (iii) standard of living. These three dimensions have one-third weight each in the final index.
- ❖ The health dimension includes nutrition and child & adolescent mortality indicators. The education dimension includes years of schooling and school attendance indicators. The standard of living dimension includes six household-specific indicators: housing, household assets, type of cooking fuel, access to sanitation, drinking water, and electricity.



### HOW IS MPI CALCULATED?

- ❖ According to the MPI method, if a person is deprived in a third or more of 10 (weighted) indicators, they are identified as “MPI poor”.



- ❖ The first calculation involves finding out the “**incidence of multidimensional poverty**” (denoted by the **symbol H**). The incidence essentially refers to the proportion of multidimensionally poor in the population, and it is arrived at by dividing the number of multidimensionally poor persons by total population. More simply, it answers the question: **How many are poor?**
- ❖ The second calculation involves finding out the “**intensity**” of poverty (it is denoted by the **symbol A**). This answers the question: **How poor are they?**
- ❖ More technically, this refers to the average proportion of deprivation that is experienced by multidimensionally poor individuals. To compute intensity, the weighted deprivation scores of all poor people are summed and then divided by the total number of poor people.
- ❖ **Finally, the MPI is arrived at by multiplying the incidence of multidimensional poverty (H) and the intensity of poverty (A).**
- ❖ “The MPI value for a given population, therefore, is the share of weighted deprivations faced by multidimensionally poor individuals divided by the total population,” states the paper.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI) 2023

- ❖ Acute multidimensional poverty affects 1.1 billion people globally, comprising 18% of the total population across 110 countries.
- ❖ Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia collectively harbour the majority of the impoverished population, with 534 million and 389 million people, respectively.
- ❖ These two regions are the residence of approximately 83% of the world's poor, totalling five out of every six individuals in poverty.
- ❖ Children under 18 years old constitute half of the acutely multidimensionally poor population, amounting to 566 million.
- ❖ The poverty rate among children stands at 27.7%, while among adults, it is 13.4%.

### OUTLOOK FOR INDIA:

- ❖ **Current Poverty Situation in India:**
  - ☞ India still has over 230 million people living in poverty.
  - ☞ The UNDP identifies vulnerability, with 18.7% of the population falling into this category, experiencing deprivations in 20-33.3% of weighted indicators.
- ❖ **India's Success in Poverty Reduction:**
  - ☞ India is one of 25 countries, including Cambodia, China, Congo, Honduras, Indonesia, Morocco, Serbia, and Vietnam, that successfully halved their global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) values within 15 years.
  - ☞ Between 2005-06 and 2019-21, 415 million Indians lifted themselves out of poverty.
  - ☞ The incidence of poverty in India significantly decreased from 55.1% in 2005/2006 to 16.4% in 2019/2021.
- ❖ **Progress in Deprivation Indicators:**
  - ☞ India made substantial progress in all three deprivation indicators: Health, Education, and Standard of living.
  - ☞ Poverty reduction has been widespread, cutting across regions and socio-economic groups.
  - ☞ The poorest states and groups, including children and disadvantaged caste groups, showed the fastest absolute progress.
- ❖ **Improvements in Specific Indicators:**
  - ☞ The percentage of people facing multidimensional poverty and lacking nutrition dropped from 44.3%



in 2005/2006 to 11.8% in 2019/2021.

- ☞ Child mortality also witnessed a significant decline, decreasing from 4.5% to 1.5% during the same period.

❖ **Overall Trend:**

- ☞ The overall trend showcases a positive trajectory in poverty reduction, reflecting India's commitment to addressing multidimensional poverty and improving the well-being of its population.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

❖ **Importance of Context-Specific Indices:**

- ☞ Recognizing the need for context-specific multidimensional poverty indices that align with national definitions of poverty is crucial.

❖ **Divergence from Global MPI:**

- ☞ Although the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) offers a standardized approach, it may not fully capture the nuances of poverty as defined by individual countries.

❖ **National Definitions for Comprehensive Insight:**

- ☞ National definitions provide a more comprehensive understanding of poverty tailored to the specific socio-economic and cultural context of each country.

❖ **Effective Evaluation and Addressing Poverty:**

- ☞ To evaluate and address poverty effectively, it is essential to incorporate these context-specific indices, ensuring that policies and interventions are well-aligned with the unique challenges and characteristics of each nation.

❖ **Tailoring Solutions to Local Realities:**

- ☞ Context-specific indices enable the tailoring of poverty alleviation strategies to local realities, addressing the diverse and often unique dimensions of poverty that may not be adequately captured by a global framework.

❖ **Enhanced Policy Relevance:**

- ☞ Adopting national definitions in multidimensional poverty measurement enhances the policy relevance of anti-poverty initiatives, making them more responsive to the specific needs and conditions of the population.

❖ **Holistic Understanding of Poverty:**

- ☞ By incorporating national definitions, a more holistic understanding of poverty emerges, encompassing not just economic factors but also cultural, social, and regional dimensions that contribute to a nuanced perspective on deprivation.

❖ **Global Collaboration with Local Sensitivity:**

- ☞ While a global MPI is valuable for comparative analysis, integrating context-specific indices fosters a collaborative approach that combines global standards with a sensitivity to local conditions.

❖ **Promoting Inclusivity:**

- ☞ The use of national definitions in multidimensional poverty indices promotes inclusivity by acknowledging and addressing the diverse factors that contribute to poverty within a specific country.

❖ **Continuous Adaptation and Improvement:**

- ☞ Emphasizing context-specific indices encourages an ongoing process of adaptation and improvement in poverty measurement methodologies, ensuring that they remain relevant and reflective of the changing dynamics within each nation.





**PRELIMS POINTERS:**

3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2024

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>FIRST WORLD ODIA LANGUAGE CONFERENCE 2024</b></p>	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <i>The First World Odia Language Conference 2024, organized by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has gained attention as a significant celebration of the antiquity and continuity of Odia, one of India's six classical languages.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Celebrate the antiquity and continuity of Odia, one of India's six classical languages.</li> </ul> <p><b>THEME</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <i>"Odisha @2036: A Space for Tomorrow" - Discussing future aspects and opportunities for the Odia language.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>AWARDS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Dr. Debiprasanna Pattanayak</b> to be conferred the <b>First World Odia Language Award</b> for his contributions.</li> </ul> <p><b>CLASSICAL LANGUAGES IN INDIA</b></p> <p><b>LISTED LANGUAGES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Currently, six languages hold 'Classical' status in India: <b>Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).</b></li> </ul> <p><b>CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ All Classical Languages are <b>enlisted in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>MINISTRY OF CULTURE GUIDELINES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The <b>Ministry of Culture</b> outlines the criteria for designating a language as 'Classical,' emphasizing factors like a long history, valuable <b>ancient literature, and distinctiveness.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>WORLD WETLANDS DAY: 2<sup>nd</sup> FEB, 2024</b></p>	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <i>World Wetlands Day 2024 is in the spotlight as India celebrated the occasion at Sirpur Lake in Indore, designating five new wetlands as Ramsar sites, bringing the total tally to 80.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>WORLD WETLANDS DAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> FEB 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ This day marks the date of the <b>adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2nd February 1971</b>, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.</li> <li>❖ <b>The theme</b> for this year is <b>"Wetlands and Human Wellbeing."</b></li> <li>❖ The theme emphasizes the <b>interconnectedness between wetlands and various aspects of human wellbeing</b>, including physical, mental, and environmental</li> </ul>



**Indian Classical Languages**

1. Tamil
2. Sanskrit
3. Kannada
4. Telugu
5. Malayalam
6. Odia



health. Wetlands are crucial to ensuring human health and well-being for future generations.

❖ **Wetlands are defined as** land areas that are saturated or flooded with water either permanently or seasonally.

- ☛ **Inland wetlands:** Marshes, lakes, rivers, floodplains, peatlands and swamps
- ☛ **Coastal wetlands:** Saltwater marshes, estuaries, mangroves, lagoons and coral reefs
- ☛ **Human-made wetlands:** Fish ponds, rice paddies and salt pans

❖ **Wetlands are home to a wide variety of plants and animals, and play a vital role in regulating the water cycle. They help to prevent flooding, improve water quality, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.**



## MQ-9B UAV

### WHY IN NEWS?

❖ *The U.S. Congress has been officially informed about a potential sale of 31 MQ-9B high-altitude long-endurance armed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to India, estimated at \$3.99 billion.*

### ABOUT THE MQ-9B

- ❖ **Purpose:**
  - ☛ **MQ-9B SkyGuardian** is an advanced **Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS)** designed for surveillance and reconnaissance.
- ❖ **Capabilities:**
  - ☛ It offers unmatched situational awareness, flying for over **40 hours with advanced sensors** for day and night operations.

### KEY FEATURES:

- ❖ *Lynx Multi-mode Radar*
- ❖ *Electro-optical/Infrared (EO/IR) sensor*
- ❖ *Automatic takeoff and landing*
- ❖ *Longer wingspan of 79 ft (24m)*



**Versatility:** Configurable for various operations, including **disaster relief, law enforcement, and electronic warfare.**

**Open Architecture Design:** Allows integration with **advanced sensor payloads** for intelligence gathering and survivability.

### ABOUT THE DEAL

- ❖ **Certification Delivery:**



**BHARAT  
MOBILITY  
GLOBAL EXPO  
2024**

- ☛ **Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA)** notifies the U.S. Congress about the potential sale.
- ❖ **Proposed Sale Components:**
  - ☛ Includes **31 MQ-9B SkyGuardian aircraft, 161 Embedded Global Positioning & Inertial Navigation Systems (EGIs), 35 L3 Rio Grande Communications Intelligence Sensor Suites, 170 AGM-114R Hellfire missiles**, and additional equipment like ground control stations and radars.
- ❖ **Estimated Cost:**
  - ☛ The sale is valued at **USD 3.99 billion**.
- ❖ **Principal Contractor:**
  - ☛ **General Atomics Aeronautical Systems**.

**OBJECTIVE OF THE DEAL**

- ❖ Aims to strengthen the **strategic relationship between the U.S. and India**.
- ❖ Enhances India's capability for **unmanned surveillance** and reconnaissance patrols in sea lanes.

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- ❖ *India's Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, addressed the **Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024** in New Delhi. The event showcases **India's capabilities in the mobility and automotive sectors**, featuring exhibitions, conferences, and interactions between buyers and sellers.*

**BHARAT MOBILITY GLOBAL EXPO 2024:**

- ❖ **Event Overview:**
  - ☛ **India's largest mobility exhibition**, featuring **800+ global exhibitors**.
  - ☛ It includes conferences, **buyer-seller meets, state sessions**, and attractions like go-karting, fostering **collaboration and showcasing India's capabilities**.
- ❖ **Objectives:**
  - ☛ To unite the **mobility and supply chain community**, offering a platform for global collaboration and highlighting **India's role in the evolving global supply chain**.

**KEY FEATURES:**

- ❖ **Exhibitions and Conferences:**
  - ☛ Showcasing **cutting-edge technologies, sustainable solutions, and breakthroughs in mobility**.
  - ☛ States showcase **regional contributions and initiatives**, promoting collaboration at **national and regional levels**.



**KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**



## EXERCISE VAYU SHAKTI

- ❖ **Infrastructure for Truck Drivers:**
  - ☛ Initiative to build **1,000 modern facilities** along highways for truck drivers, promoting **ease of living and road safety**.
- ❖ **Government's Mobility Focus:**
  - ☛ PM Modi's commitment to **transforming the mobility sector**, leveraging economic growth and middle-class demand.
  - ☛ Significant investments in **rail, road, airport projects**, including achievements like the **Atal Tunnel and high-speed corridors**.
  - ☛ **Impact of Gati Shakti Masterplan**, National Logistics Policy, and GST discussed.
  - ☛ **Fast-Tag's role in fuel and time savings** highlighted.
  - ☛ **India's path to becoming a global economic powerhouse**, urging industry leaders to capitalize on mobility sector growth.

### WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The Indian Air Force is set to conduct Exercise Vayu Shakti-24 on February 17, 2024, at the Pokhran Air to Ground Range near Jaisalmer.*

### ABOUT THE VAYU SHAKTI EXERCISE

- ❖ **Objective:**
  - ☛ This exercise **aims to showcase the offensive and defensive capabilities** of the Indian Air Force (IAF) during **both day and night operations**.
  - ☛ IAF's capability to deliver **weapons with long-range precision** and accuracy, using both conventional and **indigenous weapon systems**.
  - ☛ The last edition of the exercise **took place on February 16, 2019**.
- ❖ **Participants:**
  - ☛ The exercise will involve the **participation of 121 aircraft, including indigenous platforms like Tejas, Prachand, and Dhruv, along with other aircraft such as Rafale, Mirage-2000, Sukhoi-30 MKI, Jaguar, Hawk, C-130J, Chinook, Apache, and Mi-17.**
- ❖ **Joint Operations:**
  - ☛ Exercise Vayu Shakti will **not only highlight the capabilities of the IAF but will also feature joint operations** with the Indian Army.
- ❖ **Weapon Systems:**
  - ☛ **Indigenous Surface to Air Weapon systems Akash and Samar** will demonstrate their ability to track and neutralize intruding aircraft.
- ❖ **Special Operations:**
  - ☛ Special operations conducted by the **IAF's transport and helicopter fleets**, involving the **Garuds (IAF's special forces) and Indian Army elements**, will also be featured.





## PLACES IN NEWS- GIZA PYRAMID

### WHY IN NEWS?

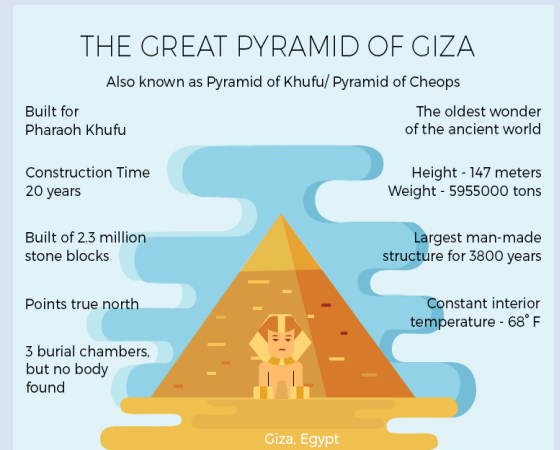
- ❖ **The Egyptian authorities have announced a controversial project to resurface the Pyramid of Menkaure at Giza with the granite blocks that originally clad part of its exterior.**

### ABOUT THE GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA

- ❖ **Location:**
  - ☛ On Giza plateau, west bank of the Nile, near Cairo.
- ❖ **Builder:**
  - ☛ **Khufu, second king of Egypt's 4<sup>th</sup> dynasty, around 2560 BCE.**
- ❖ **Discovery:**
  - ☛ Excavated in 1880 by **Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie.**

### KEY FEATURES

- ❖ **Size:**
  - ☛ **Largest Egyptian pyramid - 479 feet tall, base of 754 feet, two million stone blocks.**
- ❖ **Architecture:**
  - ☛ **Sides at 51.87° angle, accurately aligned with cardinal points.**
- ❖ **Construction:**
  - ☛ **Core - yellowish limestone, passages - finer light-coloured limestone, burial chamber - massive granite blocks.**



### PYRAMIDS OF GIZA: KEY FACTS

- ❖ **Number:**
  - ☛ Three **4th-dynasty pyramids - Khufu, Khafre, Menkaure.**
- ❖ **Builders:**
  - ☛ Correspond to kings - **Khufu, Khafre, Menkaure.**
- ❖ **Chronology:**
  - ☛ **Khufu's (oldest), Khafre's, Menkaure's (latest) pyramids.**