

EXERCISE POWEREX-2022

CERT-In and Power-CSIRTs recently organized the cybersecurity exercise called PowerEX.

Key facts

- Cyber Security Exercise “PowerEX” was designed and organized jointly by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Power-CSIRTs (Computer Security Incident Response Teams in Power sector).
- The CERT-In hosted the cybersecurity exercise on its simulation platform.
- The event witnessed the participation of more than 350 officials from various power sector utilities.
- 193 power sector utilities were invited to take part in this exercise.
- Officials of Exercise Planner Team of Power-CSIRTs collaborated with the CERT-In team as Exercise Coordinators.
- The objective of the recently concluded cybersecurity exercise is to “Recognize, Analyse & Respond to Cyber Incident in IT & OT Systems”.
- Theme of the exercise is “Defending Cyber induced disruption in IT & OT infrastructure”.
- It helped officials working in power sector utilities to learn, practice and respond to the cyber threats.

Guideline on Cyber Security in Power Sector

The Guideline on Cyber Security in Power Sector was released by the Central Government in October 2021. It should be adhered by all Power Sector utilities across India. This is the first comprehensive guidelines focusing on the cybersecurity in power sector. It seeks to improve the preparedness of various power utilities and create a cyber secure ecosystem in the Indian power sector.

About CERT-In

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) was established in 2004 under Section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000. It comes under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). It is a nodal agency that deals with cybersecurity-related threats such as hacking and phishing. It provides security to Indian Internet domain. It is responsible for collecting, analysing and disseminating information related to cyber incidents. It is also involved in forecasting and warning against cyber threats and taking emergency measures to handle cyber security-related incidents.

EXERCISE PRASTHAN

Exercise Prasthan was organized from October 11 to 12 of this year in the Krishna Godavari Basin Offshore Development Area.

Key facts

- Prasthan is an offshore security exercise that is held every six months.

- Its main purpose is to integrate the efforts of all stakeholders involved in the offshore defence.
- It was recently conducted under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy.
- The exercise witnessed the participation of various oil operators like ONGC, Reliance Ltd, Vedanta and others involved in the Maritime Security.
- It also saw the participation of Andhra Pradesh's marine police and fisheries department as well as the Indian Coast Guard.
- Its objective is to assess the overall security and preparedness during the emergency situations at the Offshore Development Area.
- It enables the oil operators to validate their standard operating procedures (SOPs) laid out for the various ODA contingencies.
- The two-day offshore security exercise had enabled the refining of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and response actions to several contingencies in the Offshore Defence Area (ODA) situated 40 nautical miles south of Kakinada – a city in Andhra Pradesh.
- The exercise focused on terrorist intrusion, bomb explosion, major fire, casualty excavation, search and rescue, man overboard, mass evacuation and oil spill.
- It provided all stakeholders an opportunity to assess their preparedness to respond and combat contingencies in the Eastern Offshore Defence Area and operate in a coordinated and synergized manner.

Krishna Godavari Basin

Krishna Godavari Basin is a deltaic plain formed by the eastern coastal rivers – Krishna and Godavari. It spans across Andhra Pradesh and the nearby areas of Bay of Bengal. ONGC was the first to discover gas in this region in 1983. In 2003, the Reliance Industries discovered the biggest natural gas reserve in India in this region. Krishna Godavari Basin is known to host Olive Ridley Turtles, a vulnerable species.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES RELATED TO EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

- **National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning.**
- **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**
- **PRAGYATA**
- **Mid Day Meal Scheme**
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**
- **PM SHRI Schools**

What are the Features of National Education Policy 2020?

- The **NEP 2020** aims at making “**India a global knowledge superpower**”. It is only the **3rd major revamp** of the framework of **education in India** since independence.
 - The **two earlier education policies** were brought in **1968 and 1986**.
- It aims to bring **2 crore out of school children back into the mainstream** through an **open schooling system**.
- **School governance** is set to change, with a **new accreditation framework** and an **independent authority to regulate both public and private schools**.
- Assessment reforms with **360-degree Holistic Progress Card**, tracking Student Progress for achieving Learning Outcomes.

- **Vocational Education** to start from Class 6 with Internships.

IMF CUTS INDIA'S GROWTH FORECAST TO 6.8% THIS YEAR

- As per reports, India recorded 8.7% growth in the fiscal year that ended on March 31, 2022. However, the growth prospects for the current FY have been trimmed by 0.6 percentage points as compared to IMF's June 2022 forecast.
- The reduction in the growth rate is attributed to a weaker output in the second quarter and dull external demand.
- Further, the forecast for the next FY has been kept unchanged at 6.1%.
- Additionally, the IMF notes that the growth will slow down from 6.0% in 2021 to 3.2% in 2022 and 2.7% in 2023 for the world as a whole.
 - This is mainly because of a contraction in the U.S. GDP during the first half of 2022, a Euro Area contraction in the second half, extended COVID-19 outbreaks in China and a property sector crisis.

Growth cut

The chart shows India's economic growth forecast for the current financial year. The IMF's cut in growth forecast comes after the RBI and the World Bank revised their forecast for FY23



International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) was set up in 1944 at the United Nations Bretton Woods Conference following the **Great Depression** in the 1930s.
- IMF which started with 44 founding member countries has over 190 countries as its members now.
- India is a founder member of the IMF and the Union Finance Minister of India is the Ex Officio Governor on the IMF's Board of Governors.
- **Headquarters:** Washington D.C., U.S.
- **The key objective of the IMF:** To work towards achieving sustainable growth and prosperity for all of its 190 member countries by supporting economic policies that promote financial stability and monetary cooperation which are important to increase productivity, job creation, and economic well-being.
- **The three missions of the IMF:**
 - Furthering international monetary cooperation
 - Encouraging the expansion of trade and economic growth
 - Discouraging policies that would harm prosperity

The sources of funds for the IMF: Member quotas, credit arrangements, and bilateral borrowing agreements.

Reasons for the reduction in the growth prospects

High Inflation

- Inflation in the country has remained above the RBI's targets and the IMF has projected 6.9% consumer price inflation in the current year and 5.1% in the next year.
- Further, the IMF estimates that the inflation in India will return to the inflation tolerance band only in FY 2023-24.

Tightening monetary conditions globally

- The growth rates of the three largest economies namely the United States, the Euro and China were forecasted to be 1.6%, 3.1% and 3.2% respectively for the current year and 1.0%, 0.5% and 4.4% respectively for the next year.
- Experts feel that the economic shocks this year will revive the economic wounds that were partially healed post-pandemic.
- According to the report, a monetary policy that aims to restore price stability is the key to mitigating the risks of a recession.
- Further, fiscal policy can also be used to adapt to a volatile environment by investing in human capital, supply chain diversification, digitization, and green energy.

Impact of the Russia-Ukraine war

- The energy crisis in Europe and the following geopolitical realignment of energy supplies due to the Russia-Ukraine war has had a broad and severe impact on the growth prospects.
- Experts feel that countries should look to extend fiscal support to the vulnerable through temporary transfers instead of focusing on price controls, subsidies and export bans.

Nut graf: According to the IMF, the whole world including India will witness an overall slowdown in the coming year because of the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war, tightening monetary conditions, high inflation rates and the lingering effects of the pandemic.