

**10 MAY 2019**

**GROUP SAIL**

**In News**

- Two Indian Navy ships INS Kolkata and INS Shakti carried out a six day long ‘Group Sail’ (starting from 3 May and ending on 9 May) with naval ships of USA, Japan and Philippines in South China Sea (SCS).

**About ‘Group Sail’**

- **Objective:** It was aimed at deepening existing partnership and fostering mutual understanding among participating country’s navies.
- **Participants:** four countries namely, US, India, Japan and Philippines.
- **Naval Ships:** six combatants from participating countries included India’s INS Kolkata(Guided Missile Destroyer) and INS Shakti (Fleet Support Ship), Japna’s JMSDF Izumo(Helicopter Carrier) and JMSDF Murasame (Guided Missile Destroyer), Philippines’s BRP Andres Bonifacio (Frigate and offshore patrol vessel) and USA’ USS Williams P. Lawrence(Arleigh Burke Class guided Destroyer).
- **Exercise Included:** formation exercises, communication drills, passenger transfers, cross-deck flying, replenishment runs, and exchange of Sea Riders.



**5TH UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK**

**In news**

- The Fifth United Nations (UN) Global Road Safety Week is being held from 6 May to 12 May 2019.
- The theme for weekly event in 2019 is “Leadership for road safety”.

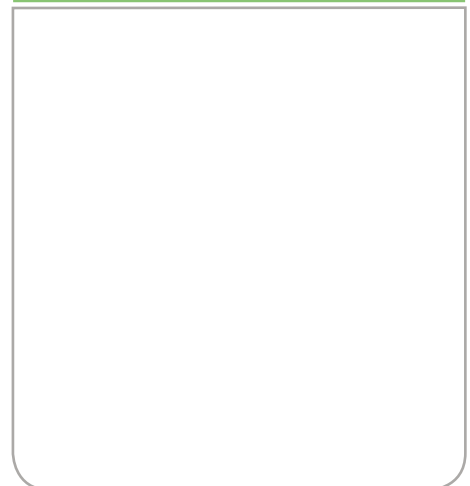
**About 5th UN Global Road Safety Week 2019**

- The UN Global Road Safety Weeks and its’ campaigns are coordinated by United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, chaired by World Health Organization (WHO).
- During the on-going global road safety week WHO released “Global Status Report on Road Safety”.
- As it is acknowledged that with a stronger leadership for road safety Global Goals could be achieved, so it launched action through ongoing campaign “Save Lives – #SpeakUp”.

**About “Save Lives – #SpeakUp” campaign**

- It operates on principles of ‘Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020’. The Decade of Action seeks to prevent road traffic injuries and deaths

**NOTE**



which are projected to take lives of about 1.9 million people annually by 2020.

- It also inspires leaders to take action by displaying strong leadership for road safety within governments, private companies, NGOs, international agencies, schools and universities.

**Brasilia Declaration:**

- In 2015, India became a signatory to Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety, where it committed to reduce 50% of its road crash deaths by 2020.
- But even after 2015, full scale of problem in India is still unacknowledged.

**INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD (INCB)**

**In news:**

- India’s Jagjit Pavadia has been re-elected by the UN Economic and Social Council to a five-year term on International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
- The INCB, while ensuring that adequate supplies of narcotics are available for medical and scientific purposes while combating their diversion as well as the illicit drugs manufacture and trafficking.
- It has 13 members, each elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of five years. The remaining three members are elected from a list of persons nominated by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- INCB members may be re-elected.
- It releases annually Report of the International Narcotics Control Board.



**PRELIMS BITS**

**CHAR DHAM**

- The Char Dham (“four abodes”) is a set of four pilgrimage sites in India.
- Vaishnavite Hindus believe that visiting these sites helps achieve “Moksha” (salvation). It comprises Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri and Rameswaram.
- It is considered by Hindus that every Hindu must visit the char dhams during one’s lifetime.
- The Char Dham as defined by Adi Shankaracharya consists of four Vaishnavite pilgrimage sites.
- Another circuit of four ancient pilgrimage sites in the Indian state of Uttarakhand - Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath is referred to as Chota Char Dham (Small Four Temples) to differentiate it from this bigger circuit of Char Dham sites.
- In 2016 the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana (“Chardham Highway Development Project”) to improve connectivity for these Hindu pilgrimage sites and make the pilgrimage an easy task for Hindus.



**NOTE**

