

DATE: 23 APRIL 2026

1 Konark Sun Temple (Source: The Indian Express)

- Located at Coastline of Odisha in Puri district
- Built by King Narasimha Deva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty
- Also called the Surya Devalaya, the temple is dedicated to the Hindu god Surya.
- Built in Kalinga Architecture
- It has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1984.
- The temple, built from Khondalite rocks, is also known as 'BLACK PAGODA' due to its dark colour.
- The temple remains a site of contemporary worship for Hindus, during the annual Chandrabhaga Festival, around the month of February.



2 DIVEX 2026 (Source: PIB)

- **It is an India–Sri Lanka diving exercise between the two countries' navies.**
- The bilateral exercise brings together diving teams from both navies to undertake specialised underwater operations.
- The engagement aims to improve interoperability, operational cohesion, and the sharing of best practices between the two maritime forces.

Other Exercise

- **SLINEX:** Bilateral naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka, initiated in 2005 to enhance maritime interoperability, exchange best practices, and strengthen regional security.
- **Mitra Shakti:** A Joint Military Exercise between the Armies of India and Sri Lanka.



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3 Compulsory Provisions of Panchayati Raj (Source: The Hindu)

The concept of Panchayati raj was added to constitution by 73rd Amendment and inserted Part IX. It also added Eleventh Schedule to the constitution that contains 29 functional items for Panchayats.

Compulsory Provisions of Panchayati Raj

- Organization of Gram Sabhas.
- Creation of a three-tier panchayat system.
- Direct elections.
- The minimum age for contesting would be 21 years.
- Indirect elections to the post of chairman.
- Reservation of seats for SC/STs in proportion to the population.
- Reservation for the women.
- Creation of the SECs (State Election Committee).
- Creation of SFCs (State Finance Committee).