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# CURRENT AFFAIR

**08<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023**



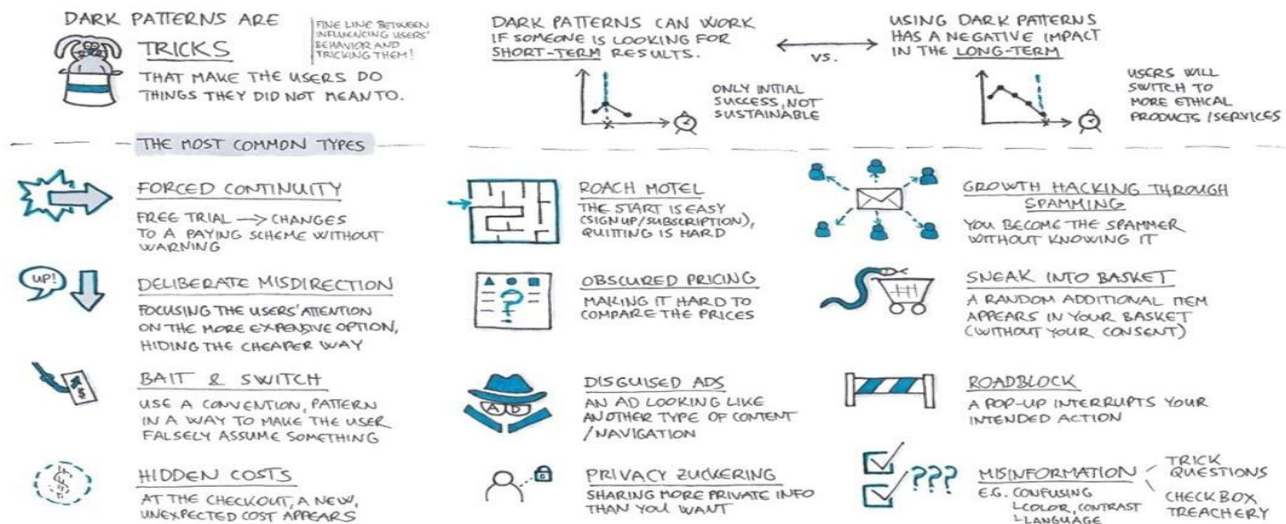
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## Dark Pattern

- The Central Government has prohibited **e-commerce companies** from using **dark patterns** and the government has constituted a task force to issue guidelines on this matter.
- The consumer ministry has separately classified complaints related to dark patterns. So that action can be taken under the **Consumer Protection Act 2019**.
- Harry Brignull, a user experience researcher in the UK, introduced the phrase '**dark patterns**' in 2010 to characterize deceptive strategies used to defraud customers.
- **Dark pattern** refers to a design or user interface technique intentionally designed to manipulate or trick users into making certain choices or performing specific actions that may not be in their best interests.
- It is a deceptive practice employed to influence user behaviour in a way that benefits the company implementing it.

- ➔ For example, a common dark pattern is the **"Sneak Into Basket"** technique used on e-commerce websites.
- ➔ When a user adds an item to their shopping cart, a dark pattern may be employed by automatically adding additional items to the cart without the user's explicit consent or explicit notification.
- ➔ This may mislead the user into purchasing more items than they intended, potentially increasing the company's sales but compromising the user's autonomy and decision-making ability.

## DARK PATTERNS



## 7th Edition of JIMEX 23

- **The Indian Navy (IN)** along with the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) is conducting the 7th edition of the bilateral **Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23)** from 5 to 10 July 2023 at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- This edition marks the 11th anniversary of **JIMEX** since its inception in 2012.
- **JIMEX 23** provides an opportunity for both Navies to learn from each other's best practices and facilitate operational interactions to foster mutual cooperation and reaffirm their shared commitment to maritime security in the region.
- The exercise is a part of growing maritime cooperation between India and Japan, aimed at promoting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **JIMEX 23** lasts for six days and consists of two phases.

- **Harbour Phase:** The initial phase, known as the Harbour Phase, will take place in Visakhapatnam. During this phase, participants will engage in professional discussions, sporting events, and social interactions.
- **Sea Phase:** This phase will be conducted in the high seas, enabling both navies to collaborate and refine their combat capabilities through complex multi-discipline operations in surface, sub-surface and air domains to enhance their interoperability.
- **Indian Navy (IN):** The exercise saw the participation of Indian Naval Ship (INS) Delhi, India's inaugural indigenously built guided missile destroyer, as well as INS Kamorta, an indigenous anti-submarine warfare corvette. Additionally, fleet tanker INS Shakti, a submarine, maritime patrol aircraft P8I and Dornier, ship-borne helicopters and fighter aircraft were also part of the exercise.



→ **Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF):** The JMSDF will be represented by the guided missile destroyer JS Samidare and its integral helicopters.

**India, Japan hold 7th edition of the  
bilateral Maritime Exercise 2023  
(JIMEX 23) at/ off Visakhapatnam  
from 5 -10 July 2023.**



## 7th Edition of SALVEX Exercise

- ➔ **Indian Navy (IN)** - United States Navy (USN) 7th edition of Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise, SALVEX from 26 June to 6 July 2023 at Kochi, Kerala, US and India in diving and salvage techniques was conducted to strengthen the capability of the divers.
- ➔ The first **IN-USN SALVEX** was conducted in 2005 and since then the **SALVEX** series of exercises have been conducted annually in alternating Indian and US Pacific Locations.
- ➔ The exercise saw participation from both the navies which included the **INS Nireekshak** from the Indian Navy and the **USNS Salvor** from the US Navy, as well as specialist diving and EOD teams.
- ➔ The diving teams from both countries shared maritime rescue experiences on sea rescue and trained together in various aspects of **EOD** operations on land as well as at sea during the 10 days.

- ➔ **SALVEX** has also seen the conduct of joint training exercises with a view to enhancing interoperability, synergy and benefit from mutually best practices in maritime rescue and **EOD** operations.
- ➔ Constructive engagement on operational terms has improved the skill set of diving teams in many different disciplines such as mine detection and neutralisation, wreck location and rescue.



IN-USN SALVAGE AND EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE  
DISPOSAL EXERCISE

**SALVEX**



## Black Sea Grain Agreement

- The **United Nations**, Turkey and Ukraine agreed on Monday to implement the Black Sea grain agreement despite Russia's withdrawal from the agreement. **Russia** indefinitely suspended its role in the Black Sea Agreement.
- Moscow said it could not guarantee the safety of civilian ships travelling under the treaty following the attack on its Black Sea fleet.
- The United Nations said in a statement that it has agreed with Ukraine and Turkey on a plan for the movement of 16 ships today. But Russia has not responded to Monday's transit plan.
- **Black Sea Agreement** by **Russia, Turkey, Ukraine** and the **United Nations on 22 July 2022** to enable the resumption of exports of grain, other foodstuffs and fertilizer from Ukraine through a secure maritime humanitarian corridor from Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea The grain initiative was launched.

- ➔ The Black Sea Grain Agreement provides for a secure maritime humanitarian corridor for Ukrainian exports from three major Ukrainian ports on the Black Sea.
- ➔ Exports from Ukraine mainly consist of food grains and fertilizers (including ammonia). These ports are: **Chornomorsk, Odesa** and **Yuzhny / Pivdennyi**.
- ➔ This agreement was reached in July 2022 between Russia and Ukraine under the mediation of the United Nations (UN) and Turkey. An option has also been kept to extend the deadline of this agreement.
- ➔ This agreement has been extended thrice. It was last extended till July 2023.
- ➔ Reducing global food insecurity: Ukraine is one of the largest exporters of **wheat, maize, rapeseed, sunflower seed** and **sunflower** oil globally.
- ➔ **Food inflation:** This facilitates Russia's export of fertilizers, which is necessary to ensure higher crop yields in the future and lower food prices.
- ➔ It also helps to deal with rising food prices due to disruptions in the supply chain.

- ➔ According to **UN** data, only 3 per cent of exports under the Black Sea Agreement went to low-income countries, while high-income countries received about 44 per cent of exports.
- ➔ **Russia** has grievances with the West because of the challenges faced by its own exports.



## Internationalization of the Indian Rupee

- India wants the Rupee to become a global currency. The Inter-Departmental Group (IDG) of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** said that India continues to be one of the fastest-growing countries and is showing remarkable resilience in the face of major challenges, with the Rupee having the potential to become an internationalized currency.
- Internationalization of currency refers to the internationalization of the basic functions of a country's national currency. These basic functions of money include serving as a **unit of account**, a medium of exchange, and a store of value.
- Money's function as a **"unit of account"** is intended to provide meaningful and measurable value to individual goods and services.
- Store of value means that it can be saved, retrieved, exchanged etc. for the future without loss of value of the currency.



- ➔ Internationalization of currency helps a country's exporters and importers to limit exchange rate risk. It increases access to international financial markets.
- ➔ The government can finance a part of its current account deficit without reducing its official foreign exchange reserves.
- ➔ **Risks from the internationalization of currency:**
  - Due to this, there is a possibility of increasing volatility in the exchange rate of the currency.
  - The result of the Triffin dilemma can have an impact on monetary policy.
- ➔ The Triffin dilemma relates to a conflict of interest in monetary policy. This conflict arises between short-term domestic gains and long-term global gains for currencies that act as global reserve currencies. It can aggravate any external trauma.
- ➔ **Recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Group**
  - **Short term measures:**~ Standardized approach should be adopted for settlement in Indian Rupee (IR) in bilateral and multilateral trade agreements.

- Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) should be encouraged to open INR accounts.
- Financial markets should be strengthened.

### → **Recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Group**

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### → **Medium-Term Measures:**

- The Masala Bond framework should be liberalised.
- Issues related to taxation should be resolved.
- RTGS should be used internationally.
- INR should be included in the Continuous Linked Settlement (CLS) system.
- Banking services should be allowed to operate in INR outside India as well.

- ➔ **Long-Term Measures:** Efforts should be made to include INR in the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to make INR a 'Vehicle Currency'.
- ➔ Vehicle currency is the currency used extensively by merchants and bankers in international trade transactions.
- ➔ **Measures Taken for Internationalization of the Indian Rupee (INR)-**
  - Indian corporates have been permitted to issue rupee-denominated bonds overseas.
  - Currency swap agreements are being made, for example with Japan.
  - Trading in Rupee derivatives has been permitted in the IFSC.
  - Additional arrangements are being made for invoicing, payment and settlement of export imports in Indian Rupees.
  - Efforts are being made to include INR in the Asian Clearing Union mechanism.

