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S.NO. TOPIC

1. INS SUNAYNA
2. DOES H5N1 POSE A THREAT FOR HUMANS?

INS SUNAYNA

SOURCE: [INDIAN EXPRESS](#)

TAG: MAINS EXAMINATION: GS III: **Various Security Forces, Agencies and Their Mandates.**



Why in News:

- ❖ INS Sunayna, an Offshore Patrol Vessel based at Southern Naval Command, entered Port Victoria, Seychelles on the company of Seychelles Coast Guard Ship (SCGS) Zoroaster.
- ❖ Zoroaster had recently completed her short refit at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), India.

About INS Sunayna:

- ❖ It is a Saryu class Offshore Patrol Vessel which was commissioned at Kochi.
- ❖ It is based under Southern Naval Command and is built at Goa Shipyard Limited.
- ❖ The warship is designed to undertake fleet support operations, coastal and offshore patrolling, ocean surveillance and monitoring of Sea Lines of Communications and offshore assets, and escort duties.
- ❖ It can achieve speeds of 25 knots.
- ❖ The ship also has an automatic power management system.
- ❖ It is fitted with the latest Navigation, Communication and Electronic Support Systems.
- ❖ Other Sarayu class includes the INS Sumitra and INS Sumedha.



Key Operations Undertaken:

- ❖ In June 2018 she was deployed to Yemen's Socotra Island as part of "Operation Nistar", an HADR mission to evacuate around 38 stranded Indian nationals in/around Socotra after a cyclone hit the area.
- ❖ INS Sunayna, along with INS Chennai, was sent to the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman in June 2019 to protect Indian shipping interests amid tensions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Passage Exercise (PASSEX):

- ❖ A Passage Exercise (PASSEX) is a naval exercise conducted between the navies of two or more nations while ships are underway at sea.
- ❖ It involves naval ships from different countries sailing together and practicing various maneuvers and drills.
- ❖ The main aim is to enhance interoperability, communication, and cooperation between the participating navies.
- ❖ It allows navies to practice coordinated operations, maritime tactics, search and rescue procedures, and other naval activities.
- ❖ Passage Exercises are usually undertaken when naval ships are transiting through the waters of friendly nations.
- ❖ They promote understanding, build confidence, and develop operational skills between the naval forces involved.
- ❖ PASSEXs help strengthen maritime security cooperation and enable navies to respond effectively to emergencies or maritime threats.
- ❖ These exercises are an important component of naval diplomacy and help foster goodwill and mutual trust between participating nations.

INS Sunayna is a modern and capable offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Navy, playing a crucial role in safeguarding the country's maritime interests.



DOES H5N1 POSE A THREAT FOR HUMANS?

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

TAG: MAINS EXAMINATION: GS III: **Awareness in Various Science and Technology Fields.**

Why in News:

- ❖ The potential for influenza viruses to rapidly evolve and the wide geographic spread of H5N1 signals that more human infections should be expected.

Can the H5N1 Strain of Avian Influenza Spread from Cattle to Humans:

- ❖ No, the H5N1 strain of avian influenza (bird flu) cannot spread directly from cattle to humans in a concise manner:
 - ☛ H5N1 is a highly pathogenic avian influenza virus that primarily infects birds, especially poultry like chickens and turkeys.
 - ☛ While cattle can potentially contract H5N1 from infected birds, they are not considered a primary host or reservoir for this virus strain.
 - ☛ There have been no reported cases of humans contracting H5N1 directly from infected cattle.
 - ☛ Humans usually get infected with H5N1 through close contact with infected live or dead poultry, or their contaminated environments.
 - ☛ For transmission to humans, the virus would need to mutate significantly to acquire the ability to spread efficiently from cattle to humans, which is considered unlikely.
 - ☛ However, proper precautions should be taken when handling any potentially infected animals to minimize the risk of zoonotic transmission.

Strategies to Identify and Prevent the Spread of H5N1 Avian Influenza Viruses:

- ❖ **Surveillance and Early Detection:**
 - ☛ Active monitoring and testing of poultry farms, live bird markets, and wild bird populations for the virus.
 - ☛ Rapid identification and reporting of any suspected cases or outbreaks.
- ❖ **Biosecurity Measures:**
 - ☛ Strict biosecurity protocols on poultry farms and during transportation/trade of birds.
 - ☛ Proper disposal of infected birds and contaminated materials.
 - ☛ Disinfection and cleaning of affected premises.
- ❖ **Containment and Control:**
 - ☛ Culling of infected poultry flocks to prevent further spread.
 - ☛ Establishment of quarantine zones and movement restrictions around outbreak areas.
 - ☛ Temporary closure of live bird markets or trade routes as needed.
- ❖ **Public Health Measures:**
 - ☛ Close monitoring and isolation of humans with suspected infections.
 - ☛ Provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) for those handling infected birds.
 - ☛ Awareness campaigns on prevention and safe handling practices.



❖ **Collaboration and Information Sharing:**

- Coordination between animal health, public health, and wildlife authorities.
- Sharing of epidemiological data and virus samples for research and surveillance.
- International cooperation and adherence to global health regulations.

Conclusion:

- ❖ H5N1 poses a significant threat to humans due to its high mortality rate, potential for causing severe respiratory illness, and occasional transmission from birds, highlighting the need for continued vigilance and preparedness.