



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 24-May-2018

General Studies-2

PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation)

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today chaired his twenty-sixth interaction through PRAGATI - the ICT-based, multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.

The 25 PRAGATI meetings so far have seen a cumulative review of 227 projects with a total investment of over Rs. 10 lakh crore. Resolution of Public Grievances has also been reviewed across a range of sectors.

PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation) is a multi-purpose and multi-modal platform existing in the Prime Minister's Office which apart from addressing common man's grievances, does monitoring and reviewing of important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.

This was launched in March 2015 by Prime Ministry Shri. Narendra Modi.

This platform is used exclusively by the Prime Minister to give suitable directions for redressal of grievances and also on compliance on the projects and programmes and to motivate all officers to work in coordinated manner for the outcome. PRAGATI is not a public web platform.

The word "PRAGATI" in Sanskrit / Hindi means "Progress" or "improvement" or "increase" or "headway" or "advancement" or "growth".

The PRAGATI platform bundles three latest technologies: Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology.

It brings on one stage the Secretaries of Government of India and the Chief Secretaries of the States.

With this, the Prime Minister is able to discuss the issues with the concerned Central and State officials with full information and latest visuals of the ground level situation. It is also an innovative project in e-governance and good governance.



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 24-May-2018

Indo-Dutch Startup Initiative: #StartUpLink to be Launched

With the upcoming visit of the Netherlands' Prime Minister Mark Rutte to India, Indo-Dutch ties across sectors are all set to get a major boost.

In an endeavour to further the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship, Invest India (host to the Govt. of India's initiative, 'Startup India' under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry) and the Dutch Government are jointly launching the Indo-Dutch #StartUpLink initiative.

The Indo-Dutch #StartUpLink is developed for Indian and Dutch startups that are exploring each other's markets and offers access to key information, relevant networks, pilot opportunities, and navigators for the respective startup ecosystems.

Startup India Hub under Invest India and Netherlands Enterprise Agency under the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Change would act as single points of contact and navigators for their respective countries.

Clean Air' India Ring, a critical component of the Indo-Dutch #StartUpLink, will be launched on 24th May at Taj Hotel.

The initiative is a multi-corporate challenge that will test and scale innovations through collaboration between startups, corporates and governments by providing pilot opportunities for promising innovations that solve the problem of pollution.

Indian and Dutch startups will be matched through this program to relevant corporates for the same.

SoI between NITI Aayog and ABB

NITI Aayog and ABB India signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) today to support the Indian government realize its ambitious vision of 'Make in India' through advanced manufacturing technologies that incorporate the latest developments in robotics and artificial intelligence.

NITI Aayog will work with ABB across various sectors of the economy, such as the power and water utilities, industries like food as well as the heavy industries



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 24-May-2018

and the transport (rail and metro) and infrastructure to suggest solutions for digitalization, incorporating the Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.

The initiative also covers the fast growing segment of electric mobility.

Jointly, NITI Aayog and ABB will work with government ministries, solicit feedback for areas critical to them and discuss solutions using industrial automation, and digitalization technologies.

Through this SoI, NITI Aayog will facilitate participation of policymakers and government functionaries in workshops and training programs organized by ABB India. Such programs will feature subject matter experts and will aim to sensitize policymakers and officials about relevant AI capabilities, and explore ways they can be used for revolutionizing manufacturing productivity.

General Studies-3

United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA)

Why in News?

The United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) wants to do what the Border Security Force has allegedly failed to — check illegal migration to Assam through the Bangladesh border.

These include withdrawal of cases registered against the outfit's members ever since it was formed in 1979 to fight for Assam's sovereignty, Scheduled Tribe status for six ethnic communities and ensuring land rights for Assam's indigenous people.

The outfit had in 2011 submitted demands to the Centre seeking amendment to the Constitution for protecting the rights and identity of the indigenous people. The demand has gained currency after protests over the Centre's bid to push the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill of 2016.

The peace deal with ULFA is expected to be sealed before the 2019 polls but Centre is reportedly keen on inking it soon to isolate the Paresh Baruah-led ULFA (Independent).



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 24-May-2018

About ULFA:

The **United Liberation Front of Assam** is a separatist outfit operating in Assam, North East India for the Indigenous Assamese people.

It seeks to establish a sovereign Assam with an armed struggle in the Assam conflict.

The government of India banned the organisation in 1990 citing it as a terrorist organisation while the United States Department of State lists it under "other groups of concern."

India drag US to WTO

India has launched a complaint against the United States to challenge U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs on steel and aluminium, a filing published by the World Trade Organization showed on Wednesday.

India, China, Russia, Japan, Turkey and the European Union have all dismissed that claim, regarding the U.S. tariffs as "safeguards" under the WTO rules, entitling them to a combined \$3.5 billion in annual compensation.

India's retaliation claim seeks to recoup a cost of \$31 million levied on its aluminium exports and \$134 million on steel, and it has said it could target U.S. exports of soya oil, palmolein and cashew nuts in its retaliation.

Under WTO rules, the U.S. has 60 days to settle the complaint, after which India could ask the WTO to set up an expert panel to adjudicate.

In its complaint, India listed a string of ways the U.S. tariffs violated the WTO rules and unfairly damaged India's interests.

It said they broke the WTO's safeguards agreement and the U.S. was trying to use its tariffs to get other countries to agree to "voluntary export restraints".



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 24-May-2018

The U.S. had also exceeded the maximum import tariff allowed by the WTO and the tariffs were not applied uniformly to steel and aluminium imports from all suppliers, breaking a core principle of the WTO rulebook.

SURYA KIRAN-XIII

Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII between India and Nepal will be conducted at Pithoragarh from 30 May to 12 June 2018.

The exercise will comprise of nearly 300 soldiers from both Indian and Nepal Army who would be sharing their experiences gained during conduct of various counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations in the past.

Exercise SURYA KIRAN is a biannual event which is conducted alternatively in Nepal and India.

Notably in the series of military training exercises undertaken by India with various countries, Exercise SURYA KIRAN with Nepal is the largest in terms of troop participation.

The aim of this exercise is to conduct battalion level joint training with emphasis on counter terrorism operations in mountainous terrain.

During the exercise, aspects of disaster management and joint effort towards relief work have also been included.

The joint military exercise will enhance the level of defence cooperation which will further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two nations.