



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 19-July-2018

General Studies- 2

Indo-US Bilateral Defence Cooperation

Why in News?

As part of Indo-US Bilateral Defence Cooperation, the 7th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) meeting was held between India and the US delegation here today.

About the Meeting:

The meetings are held twice a year, alternately in India and the USA with the aim to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defence trade relationship and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment.

Indian government has taken a number of steps to give an impetus to Indian defence industry and its flagship 'Make in India' initiative.

Importance:

Given the large defence outlay planned for India's defence requirements in the future, the contribution of our defence industry, in partnership with foreign OEMs to begin with, is expected to be significant.

This would also contribute to overall growth of the economy and will also have several opportunity benefits and downstream effects.

India-US defence cooperation is one of the core pillars of the defence relationship between the two countries and is continuing apace.

US has designated India as a 'Major Defence Partner' and expected the defence relationship between the two countries to be further strengthened.

DTTI is an important forum leading to the 2+2 dialogue between the two countries.



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 19-July-2018

Eradication of Child Labour

Child Labour is an outcome of various socio-economic problems such as poverty, economic backwardness, illiteracy etc.

Child Labour in India:

As per 2011 Census, the number of main workers in the age group of 5-14 years in the country is 43.53 lakh which shows a decline from 57.79 lakh as per 2001 Census.

Under Legislative action plan Government has enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 which came into force w.e.f 01.09.2016.

Steps Taken by Govt.

The Amendment Act, inter alia, provides for complete prohibition on employment or work of children below 14 years and also prohibits employment of adolescents (14-18 years) in hazardous occupations and processes.

Ministry of Labour & Employment has circulated an Action Plan to all States/UTs indicating the provisions and related actions by State Governments/UTs for enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016.

Government has framed the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2017 which inter alia specifies the duties and responsibilities of State Governments and District Authorities to ensure effective enforcement of the provisions of the Act.

Government has also devised a *Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)* as a ready reckoner for trainers, practitioners and enforcing and monitoring agencies and the same has been forwarded to all States/UTs.

To ensure effective enforcement of the provisions of the Child Labour Act and smooth implementation of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme a separate online portal *PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour)* has been developed.

The Portal connects Central Government to State Government(s), District(s) and all District Project Societies.



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 19-July-2018

Further the Ministry has instructed all the concerned States where NCLP Scheme is sanctioned, to form State Resource Centre (SRC) under the chairmanship of State Labour Secretary.

Functions of SRC

Monitor the enforcement of Child Labour Act, coordinate for the rescue of children and adolescents, child tracking system and supervise all the functions through PENCIL portal.

SRC would also prepare and implement awareness generation plan to curb the menace of child labour in the State.

PMEGP Generated Over 11 Lakh Employments in Last Three Years

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, PMEGP is estimated to have generated over 11,13, 000 employments during the last three years i.e. 2015-16 to 2017-18.

About PMEGP

PMEGP is a credit linked subsidy scheme, for setting up of new micro-enterprises and to generate employment opportunities in rural as well as urban areas of the country through KVIC, State Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB) and District Industries Centre (DIC).

Under the PMEGP, general category beneficiaries can avail of margin money subsidy of 25% of the project cost in rural areas and 15% in urban areas.

For beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST/Women/PH/Minorities/Ex-Servicemen/NER, the margin money subsidy is 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban areas.

The maximum cost of projects is Rs.25 lakh in the manufacturing sector and Rs.10 lakh in the service sector.

General Studies-3

Promotion of GI Products

The Government has undertaken several steps as a part of the campaign for promotion of Indian products registered as Geographical Indications (GIs).



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 19-July-2018

These include, participation in events to promote and create awareness on GIs through social media, involving State Governments, Union Territory Administration and other relevant organizations for facilitation of GI producers.

All State Governments have been requested to appoint nodal officers for promotion of Geographical Indications from their respective states, establish facilitation cells for each GI from the state, undertake steps for GI awareness in consumers, undertake training of GI producers, take effective action against manufacture and sale of counterfeit GI products among others.

About GI Tag

A geographical indication (GI) is a name or sign used on certain products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g. a town, region, or country).

India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 has come into force with effect from 15 September 2003.

GIs have been defined under Article 22(1) of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement as: "Indications which identify a good as originating in the territory of a member, or a region or a locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographic origin.

Benefits of GI Tag:

The GI tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorised users (or at least those residing inside the geographic territory) are allowed to use the popular product name.

Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India, in 2004-05, since then by May 2017, 295 had been added to the list

India based Neutrino Observatory

Why in News?

Environmental clearance for the project has been obtained.



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 19-July-2018

Application for Wildlife Clearance and Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) has been submitted.

An 85 ton prototype mini-ICAL detector has been built and is working at IICHEP premises in Madurai.

There is no possibility of seismic events triggered by work at the INO site.

However, seismic monitoring has to be carried out during construction as an abundant measure of caution

About INO:

The India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) Project is a multi-institutional effort aimed at building a world-class underground laboratory with a rock cover of approx.1200 m for non-accelerator based high energy and nuclear physics research in India.

The initial goal of INO is to study neutrinos.

Neutrinos are fundamental particles belonging to the lepton family.

They come in three flavours, one associated with electrons and the others with their heavier cousins the muon and the Tau.

Determination of neutrino masses and mixing parameters is one of the most important open problems in physics today.

The ICAL detector is designed to address some of these key open problems in a unique way.

Over the years this underground facility is expected to develop into a full-fledged underground science laboratory for other studies in physics, biology, geology, hydrology etc.



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 19-July-2018

Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Laboratory – India (LIGO)

Why in News?

The Government of India has given 'In-Principle' approval for Construction and Operation of Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Laboratory – India (LIGO) in India in collaboration with LIGO Laboratory, United States of America.

This is the third observatory identical to the two LIGO observatories in USA.

Of the various sites surveyed for this project, the site in Hingoli District of Maharashtra has been selected as the primary site and the process of acquiring land for the project is in advanced stage.

About LIGO :

The **Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO)** is a large-scale physics experiment and observatory to detect cosmic gravitational waves and to develop gravitational-wave observations as an astronomical tool.

Two large observatories were built in the United States with the aim of detecting gravitational waves by laser interferometry.

These can detect a change in the 4 km mirror spacing of less than a ten-thousandth the charge diameter of a proton, equivalent to measuring the distance from Earth to Proxima Centauri (4.0208×10^{13} km) with an accuracy smaller than the width of a human hair

About Gravitational waves:

Gravitational waves are 'ripples' in the fabric of space-time caused by some of the most violent and energetic processes in the Universe.

Albert Einstein predicted the existence of gravitational waves in 1916 in his general theory of relativity.

Einstein's mathematics showed that massive accelerating objects (such as neutron stars or black holes orbiting each other) would disrupt space-time in such a way that 'waves' of distorted space would radiate from the source (like the movement of waves away from a stone thrown into a pond).



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 19-July-2018

Furthermore, these ripples would travel at the speed of light through the Universe, carrying with them information about their cataclysmic origins, as well as invaluable clues to the nature of gravity itself.

The strongest gravitational waves are produced by catastrophic events such as colliding black holes, the collapse of stellar cores (supernovae), coalescing neutron stars or white dwarf stars, the slightly wobbly rotation of neutron stars that are not perfect spheres, and the remnants of gravitational radiation created by the birth of the Universe itself.

Chandrayaan-2

Why in News?

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to deploy a rover on the lunar surface through Chandrayaan-2 mission.

The instruments on Rover will conduct in-situ analysis of elements such as Na, Mg, Al, Si, etc; in the vicinity of landing site.

Mining and extracting Helium-3 deposits is not planned.

About Chandrayaan-2

Chandrayaan-2 is India's second lunar exploration mission after Chandrayaan-1.

Developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the mission is planned to be launched to the Moon by a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV Mk II).

It includes a lunar orbiter, lander and rover, all developed by India.

Chandrayaan-2 is scheduled to be launched no earlier than October 2018, and will attempt to soft land a lander and rover in a high plain between two craters, Manzinus C and Simpelius N, at a latitude of about 70° south.



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 19-July-2018

If successful, Chandrayaan-2 will be the first-ever mission to land a rover near the lunar south pole.

According to ISRO, this mission will use and test various new technologies and conduct new experiments.

The wheeled rover will move on the lunar surface and will perform on-site chemical analysis.

The data will be relayed to Earth through the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter, which will piggyback on the same launch.

Total approved cost of the Chandrayaan-2 Mission is Rs.603.00 crores.