



C.A Dated On 20-08-2018

## **General Studies- 1**

### **Asian Games:**

The 18th edition of Asian Games is being held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

#### **Key facts:**

- For the first time, eSports, a form of competition using video games, and canoe polo will be contested as demonstration sports.
- This will be the second time that Indonesia hosts the Asian Games.
- This will be the first time that the Asian Games will be held in two cities – Jakarta and Palembang.

#### **About Asian Games:**

- The Asian Games, also known as Asiad, is a continental multi-sport event held every four years between athletes from all over Asia.
- Since 1982, the Games have been organised by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). Prior to that, the Games were regulated by the Asian Games Federation (AGF).
- The Games are the second largest multi-sport event after the Olympic Games.
- The last edition of the Games was hosted by Incheon, South Korea in October 2014.

## **General Studies-2**

### **Caspian Sea Agreement**

#### **Context:**

Leaders from Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan have finally signed a legal convention on ways to manage Caspian sea and its surrounding areas.

#### **About Caspian Sea:**

The Caspian Sea is a geopolitically strategic body of water, both in terms of its location and its resources.



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Situated in a transcontinental zone between Europe and Asia, it has historically been a key trade and transit corridor between eastern and western powers.

The Caspian Sea became even more important in the modern era after the discovery of significant energy resources, including over 50 billion barrels of oil and 9 trillion cubic meters of natural gas in proven or probable reserves.

**Outcomes of the latest summit:**

The convention signed at the recent summit has confirmed that the surface of the Caspian Sea would be legally classified as a sea, meaning each country would control 15 nautical miles of water from its shoreline for mineral exploration and 25 natural miles of shoreline for fishing.

All other parts of the Caspian Sea would be considered neutral waters for common use. The summit also produced important security decisions, including an agreement that military vessels from non-Caspian states would be prohibited from entering the sea.

**Impact:**

This is a boon for both Russia and Iran, who have long had concerns about a U.S. or NATO military presence increasing Western influence, particularly over Azerbaijan. The agreement does not prevent the shipment of military cargo through the Caspian, though, since both Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan have played logistical supply roles for U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan.

**Exercise Maitree 2018**

**Why in News?**

Exercise Maitree 2018, a two week long platoon level joint military exercise between Indian Army and Royal Thai Army culminated on 19 August 2018.

**About Maitree Ex:**



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- The Exercise Maitree is an annual event designed to strengthen the partnership between Royal Thai Army and Indian Army and the exercise commenced on 06 August 2018 in Thailand.
- The exercise began with a cross training period involving familiarization training between two armies to evolve drills and procedures involved in counter insurgency & counter terrorist operations in urban, rural and jungle terrain under UN mandate.
- The initial days of field training also focused on familiarizing with each other's modus operandi, basic maneuvers and evolving joint drills.
- The second phase included practicing of various drills & tactical scenarios in counter insurgency environment, execution of tactical operations like search and destroy operation, house intervention and survival techniques.

Both the armies immensely benefitted from each other's expertise and experience in conduct of tactical level counter terrorist operations. The exercise helped in enhancing the cooperation between two armies & bonhomie between troops.

### **Successful Flight Test of ATGM 'HELINA'**

#### **Context:**

Indigenously developed Helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' has been successfully flight tested from Army Helicopter at 1400hrs in the ranges of Pokhran, today.

#### **About HELINA:**

- The weapon system has been tested for its full range.
- The 'HELINA' weapon system released smoothly from the launch platform has tracked the target all through its course and hit the target with high precision.
- All the parameters have been monitored by the telemetry stations, tracking systems and the Helicopters.
- The Missile is guided by an Infrared Imaging Seeker (IIR) operating in the Lock on Before Launch mode.
- It is one of the most advanced Anti-Tank Weapons in the world.



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## **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft**

### **Why in News?**

The Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), India's next indigenous fighter, is expected to make its first flight by 2032. Development work on the jet is under way.

### **About AMCA:**

- The AMCA will feature geometric stealth and will initially fly with two GE-414 engines. Once we develop our own engine, it can be replaced with that.
- The plan is to build on the capabilities and expertise developed during the development of the light combat aircraft (LCA) and produce a medium fifth generation fighter aircraft.
- The aircraft will be powered by the same GE-414 engine on the LCA Mk-2 variant which is in the design phase.
- A GE-414 produces 98kN thrust compared to 84kN thrust of the GE-404 engine which is on the LCA Mk1.
- The basic design configuration has been frozen after wind tunnel testing and there are three critical technologies that need to be developed -- stealth, thrust vectoring and super cruise.

This is India's only fifth generation aircraft programme following the decision not to go ahead with the fifth generation project with Russia.

### **What is Stealth Technology?:**

There are two major ways of making a military platform stealthier.

- One is geometric stealth and other is material stealth.
- In geometric stealth, the shape of the aircraft is designed at such angles so as to deflect away maximum radar waves thereby minimising its radar cross section.
- In material stealth, radar-absorbing materials are used in making the aircraft which will absorb the radio waves thus reducing the radar footprint.



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- The AMCA will initially be based on geometric stealth, we can look at material stealth at a later stage.