



C.A Dated On 24-08-2018

General Studies- 2

Indo-China Summit:

Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman met State Councilor and Defence Minister of China Gen. Wei Fenghe, here today.

The Chinese Defence Minister is on an official bilateral visit to India from 21- 24 August 2018.

Outcome of Summit:

- The two Ministers held extensive discussions on bilateral defence related engagement as well as regional and international developments in a free, frank and constructive manner.
- They welcomed recent exchanges between their Armed Forces which had enhanced mutual trust and understanding to implement the consensus reached between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping at the Informal Summit in Wuhan.
- It was decided to expand the engagement between their Armed Forces relating to training, joint exercises and other professional interactions.
- Both sides also decided to work towards a new bilateral MoU on Defence Exchanges and Cooperation to replace the MoU signed in 2006.
- It was agreed to work towards full implementation of ongoing confidence building measures as well as greater interactions at the working level to ensure the maintenance of peace and tranquillity, including early operationalisation of the Hotline between the relevant departments of their Armed Forces.

What is CBM?

- **Confidence-building measures (CBMs) or confidence- and security-building measures** are in actions taken to reduce fear of attack by both (or more) parties in a situation of tension with or without physical conflict.
- The term is most often used in the context of international politics, but is similar in logic to that of [trust](#) and [interpersonal communication](#) used to reduce conflictual situations among human individuals.

How it Emerged?

- CBMs emerged from attempts by the [Cold War](#) superpowers and their military alliances (the [North Atlantic Treaty Organisation](#) and the [Warsaw Pact](#)) to avoid nuclear war by accident or miscalculation.



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- However, CBMs also exist at other levels of conflict situations, and in different regions of the world although they might not have been called CBMs.

National Logistics Portal

Why in News?

A National Logistics Portal is being developed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to ensure ease of trading in the international and domestic markets. The portal will link all the stakeholders of EXIM, domestic trade and movement and all trade activities on a single platform.

Significance:

The portal will be implemented in phases and will fulfil the commitment of the Government of India to enhance trade competitiveness, create jobs, boost India's performance in global rankings and pave the way for India to become a logistics hub.

India's logistics sector:

India's logistics sector is highly defragmented and the aim is to reduce the logistics cost from the present 14% of GDP to less than 10% by 2022.

India's logistics sector is very complex with more than 20 government agencies, 40 partnering government agencies (PGAs), 37 export promotion councils, 500 certifications, 10000 commodities, 160 billion market size.

It also involves 12 million employment base, 200 shipping agencies, 36 logistic services, 129 ICDs, 168 CFSs, 50 IT ecosystems and banks & insurance agencies. Further, 81 authorities and 500 certificates are required for EXIM.

General Studies- 3

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)



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Why in News?

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Chairperson Dr. M. S. Sahoo inaugurated one-day refresher programme for insolvency professionals here today.

It is one of its kind in the country funded under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

About the Programme:

- The programme focuses on ethics and conduct for IPs and recent developments in the insolvency and bankruptcy regime in India.
- It is expected that all IPs registered with the IBBI will participate in and benefit from this programme. There is no enrolment or course fee for participation in the programme.

What is PMKVY?

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

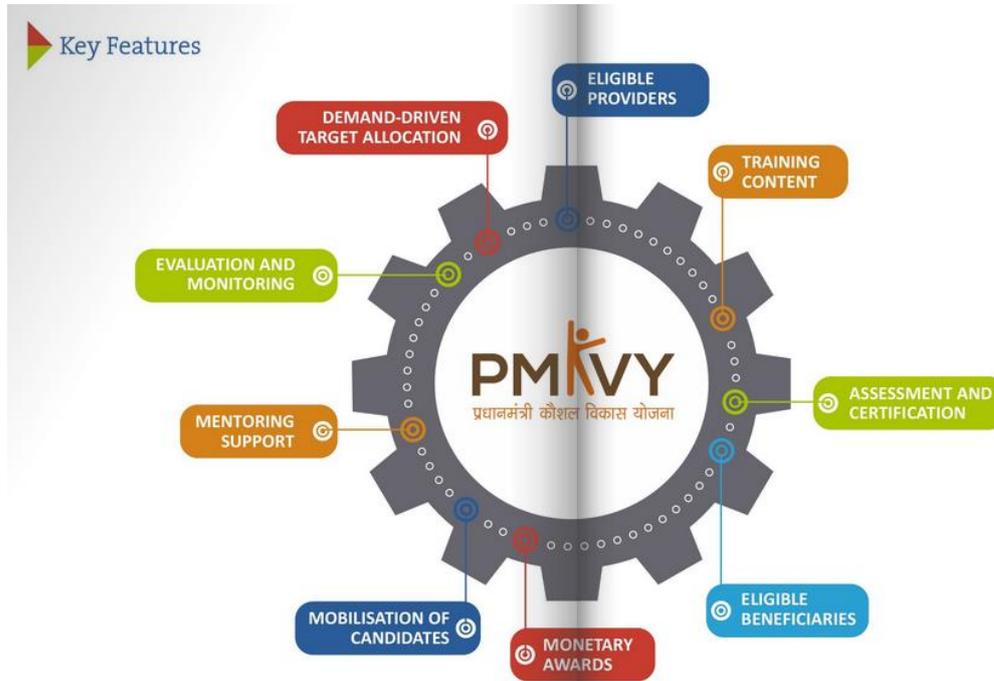
Objectives:

The objective of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.

Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).



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Opening Ceremony Exercise SCO Peace Mission 2018

Exercise Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Peace Mission 2018, the latest in 'Peace Mission' series formally started on 24 August 2018 at Chebarkul, Russia.

What is it?

The SCO Peace Mission Exercise is one of the major defense cooperation initiatives amongst SCO nations and will be a landmark event in the history of SCO defence cooperation.

Benefits of Exercise:

The exercise will provide an opportunity to the armed forces of SCO nations to train in counter terrorism operations in urban scenario in a multinational and joint environment.

The scope of the exercise includes professional interaction, mutual understanding of drills & procedures, establishment of joint command and control structures and elimination of terrorist threat in urban counter terrorist scenario.

Participant Militaries:



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The Russian Army has the major participation of 1700 personnel followed by China with 700 & India with 200 personnel.

About SCO:

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a regional intergovernmental security alliance involving Russia, China and four Central Asian states



Milestones

- 1996 —
Foundation of the Shanghai Five, the SCO predecessor
- 1999 —
Foundation of the Bishkek Group to counter border criminality
- 2001 —
Uzbekistan joins SCO
- June 15, 2001 —
Shanghai Cooperation Organization Founding Declaration signed
- 2008 —
Iran submits official application for full-right SCO membership

Basic documents

- 2001 —
Shanghai Convention on the Struggle against Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism
- 2002 —
SCO Charter
- 2002 —
Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) Founding Agreement

Goals and Objectives

- Strengthening of mutual trust and good-neighboring policies between member states
- Promotion of effective cooperation in politics, trade, economics, science, technology, and culture, as well as education, energy, transport, tourism and environmental protection
- Jointly ensuring peace, security and stability in the region
- Advancement to a new democratic, fair and rational global political and economic order

SCO Structure

- Council of Heads of State
 - Council of Heads of Government
 - Council of Foreign Ministers
 - Meetings of Heads of Ministries and Departments
 - Council of National Coordinators
 - Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure
- Russian Foreign Ministry
Ambassador-at-Large Vitaly Vorobyov is the
Presidential Envoy for SCO Affairs

ICESat-2 satellite

Why in News?

NASA will shortly launch the *Ice, Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite-2 (ICESat-2) mission* to measure — in unprecedented detail — changes in the heights of Earth's polar ice to understand what is causing ice sheets to melt fast.



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About ICESat- 2 mission:

- ICESat-2 will measure the average annual elevation change of land ice covering Greenland and Antarctica to within the width of a pencil, capturing 60,000 measurements every second.
- ICESat-2's *Advanced Topographic Laser Altimeter System (ATLAS)* measures height by timing how long it takes individual light photons to travel from the spacecraft to Earth and back.

Objectives:

- Measure melting ice sheets and investigate how this effects sea level rise.
- Measure and investigate changes in the mass of ice sheets and glaciers.
- Estimate and study sea ice thickness.
- Measure the height of vegetation in forests and other ecosystems worldwide.

Significance of the mission:

- ICESat-2 will improve upon NASA's 15-year record of monitoring the change in polar ice heights. It started in 2003 with the first ICESat mission and continued in 2009 with NASA's Operation IceBridge, an airborne research campaign that kept track of the accelerating rate of change.
- The new observational technologies of ICESat-2 will advance the knowledge of how the ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica contribute to sea level rise.