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INDIA-US Trade Issues

Why in News?

United States of America today has given a 60-day withdrawal notice to India on the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefits extended by US.

Since the review initiated by the US in April 2018 on India's GSP benefits, India and US have been discussing various trade issues of bilateral interest for a suitable resolution on mutually acceptable terms.

Benefits of GSP :

- GSP benefits are envisaged to be non-reciprocal and non-discriminatory benefits extended by developed countries to developing countries.
- In India's case the GSP concessions extended by the US amounted to duty reduction of only USD 190 million per annum.
- The US had initiated the review on the basis of representations by the US medical devices and dairy industries, but subsequently included numerous other issues on a self-initiated basis.
- These included issues related to market access for various agriculture and animal husbandry products, relaxation / easing of procedures related to issues like telecom testing / conformity assessment and tariff reduction on ICT products.

Background:

- The issue of Indian tariffs being high has been raised from time to time. It is pertinent that India's tariffs are within its bound rates under WTO commitments, and are on the average well below these bound rates. I
- ndia's trade weighted average tariffs are 7.6%, which is comparable with the most open developing economies, and some developed economies.
- On developmental considerations there may be a few tariff peaks, which is true for almost all economies.
- India was agreeable to a very meaningful mutually acceptable package on the above lines to be agreed to at this time, while keeping remaining issues under discussion in the future.



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Single Card for Seamless Travel

One Nation, One Card for transport mobility was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a function in Ahmedabad yesterday.

About the card:

- The Indigenous Automatic Fare Collection System based on One Nation One Card Model i.e. National Common Mobility Card (NCCM) is the first of its kind in India. India's First Indigenously Developed Payment system for transport consisting of NCCM Card, SWEEKAR (SwachalitKiraya: Automatic Fare Collection System) and SWAGAT (Swachalit Gate) is based on NCCM Standards.
- These are bank issued Debit/Credit/Prepaid cards and the customer may use this single card for payments across all segments including metro, bus, suburban railways, toll, parking, smart city and retail.
- The stored value on card supports offline transaction across all travel needs with minimal financial risk to involved stakeholders.
- The service area feature of this card supports operator specific applications e.g. monthly passes, season tickets etc.
- The National Common Mobility Card (NCCM) to enable seamless travel by different metros and other transport systems across the country besides retail shopping and purchases is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

Other Benefits:

- This will also help in higher digital payments penetration, savings on closed loop card lifecycle management cost and reduced operating cost.
- The rich data insights may be used by operators for business intelligence leading to efficient operation.

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Yojana

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today, launched the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Yojana at Vastral in Gujarat.

About the Scheme:



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- The scheme will assure a monthly pension of Rs.3000 for the enrolled unorganized sector workers during their old age.
- It is for the first time since independence that such a scheme is envisaged for the crores of workers engaged in the informal sector, PM added.
- A contribution of equal amount as that of the beneficiary will be made by the Union Government.
- The cost incurred by the Common Service Centre for enrolling a beneficiary will be borne by the Union Government.

The PM-SYM along with the health coverage provided under 'Ayushman Bharat' and life & disability coverage provided under 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana' and 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, will ensure comprehensive social security coverage for the workers in the unorganized sector at their old age.

Swachh Bharat Grameen

Why in News?

The National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2018-19, conducted by an Independent Verification Agency (IVA) under the World Bank support project to the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), has found that 96.5% of the households in rural India who have access to a toilet use it.

The key findings of NARSS 2018-19 are as follows:

- 93.1% of households were found to have access to toilets during the survey period (the corresponding figure as per the SBMG MIS in November 2018 was 96%)
- 96.5% of the people who had access to toilets used them
- 90.7% of villages which were previously declared and verified as ODF were confirmed to be ODF. The remaining villages also had sanitation coverage of about 93
- 95.4% of the villages surveyed found to have minimal litter and minimal stagnant water

About SBM:



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- Since its launch in October 2014, the SBM, the world's largest sanitation program, has changed the behaviour of hundreds of millions of people with respect to toilet access and usage.
- 500 million people have stopped defecating in the open since the SBM began, down from 550 million at the beginning of the programme to less than 50 million today.
- Over 9 crore toilets have been built across rural India under the Mission.
- Over 5.5 lakh villages and 615 districts have been declared ODF, along with 30 ODF States and Union Territories.

Quality Assurance Scheme for Basic Composite Medical Laboratories

Why in News?

For sensitizing small laboratories to basic doable quality practices, NABL has launched another voluntary scheme called Quality Assurance Scheme (QAS) for Basic Composite (BC) Medical Laboratories (Entry Level) in February, 2019.

Who are eligible?

- The laboratories performing only basic routine tests like blood glucose, blood counts, rapid tests for common infections, liver & kidney function tests and routine tests of urine will be eligible to apply under this scheme.
- The scheme requires minimal documentation and a nominal fee has been prescribed for availing the scheme.
- Components of competence assessment have been added for assuring quality and validity of test results.

Benefits:

- The scheme will help to bring quality at the grass root level of India's health system where laboratories follow the imperatives of quality in all their processes.
- This will inculcate the habit of quality and facilitate the laboratories to achieve benchmark accreditation of ISO 15189 over a period of time.
- The laboratories may upgrade to accreditation as per ISO 15189 at any point of time. Successful laboratories will be issued a certificate of compliance to QAS BC scheme by NABL and they will be allowed to use a distinct symbol on the test reports as a mark of endorsement to the basic standard for a defined time frame before which they will have to transition to full accreditation as per ISO 15189.



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- The scheme is expected to bring transformational change in more than 5000 laboratories over the next 5 years and to transform them into labs providing quality service.

This scheme will also give a much needed support to Ayushman Bharat Yojana of Government of India.

Ayushman Bharat:

- Under this Yojana, Government plans to set up 1,50,000 wellness centers which will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families.
- This entry level scheme of NABL will, enhance the intent of Ayushman Bharat Yojana of universal access to quality healthcare for majority of citizens especially those residing in villages and small towns by providing them access to quality diagnostics.

Hazardous Waste (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016

Why in News?

In order to strengthen the implementation of environmentally sound management of hazardous waste in the country, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has amended the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 vide notification G.S.R. G.S.R. XX (E), dated 01 March 2019.

The amendment has been done keeping into consideration the "Ease of Doing Business" and boosting "Make in India" initiative by simplifying the procedures under the Rules, while at the same time upholding the principles of sustainable development and ensuring minimal impact on the environment.

Salient features of the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Amendment Rules, 2019:



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1. Solid plastic waste has been prohibited from import into the country including in Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and by Export Oriented Units (EOU).
2. Exporters of silk waste have now been given exemption from requiring permission from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
3. Electrical and electronic assemblies and components manufactured in and exported from India, if found defective can now be imported back into the country, within a year of export, without obtaining permission from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
4. Industries which do not require consent under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, are now exempted from requiring authorization also under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016, provided that hazardous and other wastes generated by such industries are handed over to the authorized actual users, waste collectors or disposal facilities.

Atal Innovation Mission

Context:

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved Continuation of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), and for incurring expenditure up to Rs. 1000 crore till 2019-20 by Atal Innovation Mission for expanding Atal Tinkering Labs to 10,000 schools in view of their huge success at school level.

Details

- AIM has multiple programs to encourage and support innovation in the country.
- State of the art Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) are being established in thousands of schools, world class Atal Incubation Centres (AIC) and Atal Community Innovation Centers (ACIC) are being established for universities and industry,
- Promotion of product development in areas of national relevance and social importance is being supported through Atal New India Challenges (ANICs).

Financial implications:



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- Each ATL receives a grant in aid of Rs. 12 lakhs in the first year, and upto 2 lakhs per year for subsequent 4 years, for maintenance of the ATL equipment and operational expenses.
- Each selected AIC would be receiving grant in aid upto Rs 10 crore over 3-5 years in tranches per year, based on review and evidence of planned milestones reached.
- Innovators will receive commercialization and technology deployment grants upto Rs. 1 crore under the ANICs.

Impact:

- The Mission has undertaken many bold and forward-looking initiatives such as Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) and Atal Incubation Centres (AIC), which have received great traction;
- Many Ministries/Departments of Government of India have initiated innovation related activities with the help and technical support of AIM.
- Under the ATL program, more than 10,000 schools are expected to establish these labs by 2020.
- More than 100 Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) are likely to be established around the country, supporting at least 50-60 startups each over the first five years.
- More than 100 innovators/startups are expected to receive some support for productizing their innovations.
- Other programs being supported through Ministries will have even more beneficiaries.
- Each incubator is expected to foster 50-60 technology driven innovative Startups every four years.
- The 100+ Incubators set up would thus foster 5000-6000 innovative Startups and this will multiply with new incubators being set up.
- The potential for employment generation from these innovation driven Startups is quite high.

Implementation Strategy and targets:

AIM selects each beneficiary through open, competitive, online applications, and disburses grants directly. Furthermore, AIM leverages its experts and networks around the country to build capacity in ATLs, AICs, etc. connecting various kinds of populations.

Background:



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- AIM's objectives are to create and promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country at school, university, research institutions, MSME and industry levels.
- The Mission has been set up under NITI Aayog, in accordance with the Hon'ble Finance Minister's declaration in the 2015 Budget Speech

PM-KISAN SCHEME – More than 2 crore Small/Marginal Farmers have benefited so far

With a view to augment the income of farmers by providing income support to all Small and Marginal landholder farmers' families across the country and to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs, the Central Government had started a new Scheme the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).

About the Scheme:

- The Scheme aims to provide a payment of Rs.6000/- per year for the farmers' families with cultivable land holding upto 2 hectare, subject to certain exclusions.
- This Rs.6000/- would be released in three 4-monthly installments of Rs.2000/- over the year.
- The scheme is effective from 1.12.2018.
- The amount is being released by the Central Government directly into the bank accounts of the eligible farmers under Direct Benefit Transfer mode for a period of 4 months ending on 31.03.2019.
- Around 12.5 crore farmers across the country will be benefitted from this Scheme. Under the scheme, the responsibility of identification of the eligible beneficiaries rests with the State Government..

The scheme is being implemented efficiently and the first installment are released expeditiously. Till date, the benefit has already been released to more than 2 crore small and marginal farmers.

India Urban Observatory & Video Wall Inaugurated in MOHUA



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Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs, has stated that as cities begin to implement 'smart' solutions, data becomes a significant asset and enabler for data driven Governance, leading to urban transformation.

While inaugurating state-of-the-art **India Urban Observatory** here today, he said that it will plug into the myriad sources of data from cities, both from real-time and archival sources.

While inaugurating the **Video Wall**, he said that it will showcase the insights gained from the Observatory and the various Missions/ offices with the idea to proactively engage with citizens/ visitors in spreading awareness about the various initiatives of the Ministry.

Benefits:

- "The Observatory will help in getting reliable, up-to-date information on a meaningful set of indicators over various domains such as transport, health, environment, water, finance and so on, which will further assist in developing best practices, future strategies and policy interventions as and when required", he added.
- Conceptualisation of this Observatory recognizes the value of enhancing engagement among all four stakeholders of the 'quadruple-helix' model— Government, citizens, academia, and industry, along with improvements in the internal workflow and decision-making processes of city Governments.

About the Observatory:

- The India Urban Observatory is an important component of the recently launched DataSmart Cities strategy that envisions to create a 'Culture of Data' in cities, for intelligent use of data in addressing complex urban challenges.
- The strategy aims to lay down the basic premise, three foundational pillars *vis.* People, Process, Platform, and a suggested roadmap for cities to improve their readiness for intelligent use of data.
- Making cities 'DataSmart' is key to realizing the full potential of technology interventions and innovation ecosystems in cities.
- The DataSmart Cities Strategy also presents a Data Maturity Assessment Framework (DMAF), that measures the readiness and evolution of cities in their efforts to implementing the Data strategy.
- The assessment of cities as per the DMAF will foster a culture of data and drive innovation in India's Smart Cities through a spirit of collaboration and healthy competition.



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India-Africa Project Partnerships

Why in News?

Ministry of Commerce & Industry will be organising the 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships, in association with Confederation of Indian Industry and EXIM Bank of India in New Delhi from March 17-19, 2019.

The event will mark the deepening of India-Africa economic and business ties and pave the way for a whole range of cross-border project partnerships.

Background:

- The annual Conclave, since its inception in 2005, brings senior Ministers, policy makers, officials, business leaders, bankers, technologists, start-up entrepreneurs and other professionals from India and Africa on a common platform in a spirit of partnership.

About the Conclave:

- The Conclave will mark the pre-eminence of India-Africa partnership in the area of 'South-South Cooperation', at a time when the global economy is faced with intractable challenges that stem from rising protectionism and trade conflicts.
- The India-Africa bilateral partnership is augmented by India's ascendency as the fastest growing major economy, as well as Africa's new economic dynamism illustrated by some of the Sub-Saharan economies which are among the top 10 fastest growing economies in the world.
- The Conclave coheres into the Indian Government's broader vision of long-term engagement with Africa.
- The Government of India's unflinching commitment to expanding the canvas of India-Africa economic partnership which is evident from the increase in bilateral trade between India and Africa by nearly 22% from last year touching USD 62.66 billion in the year 2017-18.



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The Conclave is expected to see the participation of 400 plus delegates from Africa and around 300 delegates from India. The B2B meetings at this Conclave are expected to be held on more than 500 project proposals from Africa.

The Daman and Diu Civil Courts (Amendment) Regulation, 2019

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved Promulgation of the Daman and Diu Civil Courts (Amendment) Regulation, 2019 and the Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Civil Courts and Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Regulation, 2019 under Article 240 of the Constitution.

Benefits:

- The move will be helpful in bringing uniformity in Judicial Service.
- It will also help overcome the difficulties being faced by the litigants in travelling to Mumbai for filing appeals due to existing limited pecuniary jurisdiction.
- Enhanced pecuniary jurisdiction will accelerate the justice delivery system, besides making access easier for litigants without having to travel outside the Union Territory.

West Nile Virus

Why in News?

A section of the media has reported that a seven year old boy from Malappuram District of Kerala is suffering from a West Nile Virus (WNV), a mosquito-borne disease, mostly reported in the continental United States.

About West Nile Virus:

- **West Nile virus (WNV)** is a single-stranded [RNA virus](#) that causes [West Nile fever](#).
- It is a member of the family [Flaviviridae](#), specifically from the genus [Flavivirus](#), which also contains the [Zika virus](#), [dengue virus](#), and [yellow fever virus](#).
- West Nile virus is primarily transmitted by [mosquitoes](#), mostly species of the genus [Culex](#).



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- The primary [hosts](#) of WNV are birds, so that the virus remains within a "bird–mosquito–bird" [transmission](#) cycle.

Bilateral Agreement for Exchange of Country-by-Country (CbC) Reports between India and the USA

Sub-section (4) of Section 286 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 requires that a constituent entity of an international group, resident in India, other than a parent entity or an alternate reporting entity of an international group, resident in India, shall furnish the Country-by-Country (CbC) Report in respect of the said international Group for a reporting accounting year within the period as may be prescribed, if the parent entity of the said International Group is resident of a country or territory,—

- ∅ where the parent entity is not obligated to file the CbC Report;
- ∅ with which India does not have an agreement providing for exchange of the CbC Report; or
- ∅ where there has been a systemic failure of the country or territory and the said failure has been intimated by the prescribed authority to such constituent entity.

Benefits:

- The absence of an Agreement between India and USA till now entailed a possibility of local filing of CbC Reports in India.
- However, a Bilateral Competent Authority Arrangement, along with an underlying Inter-Governmental Agreement, for exchange of CbC Reports between India and the USA has now been finalized and will be signed on or before 31st March, 2019.
- This would enable both the countries to exchange CbC Reports filed by the ultimate parent entities of International Groups in the respective jurisdictions, pertaining to the financial years commencing on or after 1st January, 2016.
- As a result, Indian constituent entities of international groups headquartered in USA, who have already filed CbC Reports in the USA,



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would not be required to do local filing of the CbC Reports of their international groups in India.

Opening ceremony: Africa-India Field Training Exercise-2019

The inaugural Africa-India Field Training Exercise-2019 for India and African nations called AFINDEX-19 scheduled from 18 March to 27 March 2019 started with a grand opening ceremony on 18 March 2019 at Aundh Military Station, Pune.

Aim:

- The aim of the exercise is to practice the participating nations in planning and conduct of Humanitarian Mine Assistance and Peace Keeping Operations under Chapter VII of United Nations Peace Keeping Operations.

Focus of Ex:

- The exercise will focus on exchange of best practices between the participating nations, team building and tactical level operations in conduct of United Nations mandated tasks to include establishment of a new mission, siting of a United Nations Headquarters for Peace Keeping operations, siting of Military Observer sites during the peace keeping missions, protection of civilians, nuances of standing combat deployment, convoy protection, patrolling aspects and aspects related to Humanitarian Mine Assistance.

Indo-Sri Lanka joint Exercise Mitra shakti-VI

Context:

Exercise MITRA SHAKTI is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of India & Sri Lanka.

The joint exercise for the year 2018-19 will be conducted from 26 March to 08 April 2019 in Sri Lanka. Troops from 1st Battalion the BIHAR Regiment of the Indian Army and Gemunu Watch Battalion of Sri Lankan Army would be jointly undertaking the exercise.



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Aim:

- The aim of the exercise is to build and promote close relations between armies of both the countries and to enhance ability of joint exercise commander to take military contingents of both nations under command.
- The exercise will involve tactical level operations in an international Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorist environment under United Nations mandate.
- Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-VI will go a long way in further cementing relationship between both the nations and will act as a catalyst in bringing synergy and cooperation at grassroots levels between both the armies.

IBBI, SEBI sign MoU for better implementation of IBC

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

The MoU provides for:

- (a) sharing of information between the two parties, subject to the limitations imposed by the applicable laws;
- (b) sharing of resources available with each other to the extent feasible and legally permissible;
- (c) periodic meetings to discuss matters of mutual interest, including regulatory requirements that impact each party's responsibilities, enforcement cases, research and data analysis, information technology and data sharing, or any other matter that the parties believe would be of interest to each other in fulfilling their respective statutory obligations;
- (d) cross-training of staff in order to enhance each party's understanding of the other's mission for effective utilisation of collective resources;
- (e) capacity building of insolvency professionals and financial creditors;
- (f) joint efforts towards enhancing the level of awareness among financial creditors about the importance and necessity of swift insolvency resolution



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process of various types of borrowers in distress under the provisions of the Code, etc.

About IBBI:

- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** is the [regulator](#) for overseeing insolvency *proceedings* and entities like Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPA), Insolvency Professionals (IP) and Information Utilities (IU) in India.
- It was established on 1 October 2016 and given statutory powers through the [Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code](#), which was passed by Lok Sabha on 5 May 2016.
- It covers Individuals, Companies, Limited Liability Partnerships and Partnership firms.
- The new code will speed up the resolution process for stressed assets in the country.
- It attempts to simplify the process of insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings.
- It handles the cases using two tribunals like NCLT (National company law tribunal) and Debt recovery tribunal.
- Mrs. Suman Saxena former Deputy CAG of India appointed as Whole Time Member of IBBI

World TB Day

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare commemorated the World TB Day with a function to mark the occasion, and reiterated the commitment to eliminating TB in the country by 2025.

India's fight with TB:

- India is now closest ever to covering all TB cases with 21.5 lakh new TB patients notified in 2018.



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- With the aim of universal access to free diagnostics and treatment services, path breaking policy changes have been introduced.
- Universal drug susceptibility testing has been rolled out, shorter and newer treatment regimen has been expanded countrywide.
- India is moving towards an injection free regimen.
- Private sector engagement has been elevated as one of the highest priorities with strengthened regulatory measures, collaborative incentives and scale up of successful Patient Provider Support Agency (PPSA) interventions which led to a 35% increase in TB notification from the private sector.

Nikshay poshan yojana:

- The Nikshay Poshan Yojana has benefited 15 lakh TB patients for nutrition support with Rs. 240 cores disbursed as DBT since April 2018.
- A comprehensive call centre (1XXX-XX-6666) for information, addressing grievance, patient linkages and provider relationship has been established.
- Institutional system of award for TB free status has been introduced to generate federal competitiveness, motivate and to bring about proactive actions from States and Districts.

These efforts have resulted in increase from 25% to 83% in the treatment success rates (2017-2018), and the TB prevalence rates have come down from 29% to 4%.

MoU on Antarctic cooperation between India and Argentina

Context:

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, was apprised about an MoU signed in February, 2019 between India and Argentina on Antarctic cooperation.

The MoU will help scientific cooperation on projects in the fields of Earth sciences, as well as those related to the protection and conservation of the natural environment of Antarctica and the Southern Oceans.



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Salient Features:

- Scientific co-operation on projects in the fields of -inter alia- Earth sciences and life sciences, as well as those related to the protection and conservation of the natural environment of Antarctica and the Southern Oceans;
- The exchange of scientific and bibliographical information related to the study of Antarctica, its environment and dependent and associated ecosystems;
- Exploring opportunities for exchanges of scientists;
- Participation of scientists and technical experts of the national Antarctic programme of one country in the national Antarctic programme of the other, if so required;
- Joint scientific conferences and workshops; hold bilateral meetings on the sidelines of major polar forum meetings, where feasible.
- Joint scientific publications;
- Training of scientific personnel;

Global Digital Health Partnership Summit'

Why in News?

Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare inaugurated the '4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit' here today.

The global intergovernmental meeting on digital health is being hosted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP).

About GDHP:

- The Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP) is an international collaboration of governments, government agencies and multinational organisations dedicated to improving the health and well-being of their citizens through the best use of evidence-based digital technologies.
- Governments are making significant investments to harness the power of technology and foster innovation and public-private partnerships that support high quality, sustainable health and care for all.
- The GDHP facilitates global collaboration and co-operation in the implementation of digital health services.



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Gandhi Peace Prize

President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind will present the Gandhi Peace Prize for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018 tomorrow, the 26th Feb, 2019 at Darbar Hall, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will also attend the award Ceremony to felicitate the awardees.

The awardees are as below:

1. Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari for the year 2015.
2. Akshaya Patra Foundation and Sulabh International for the year 2016 (Jointly).
3. Ekal Abhiyan Trust for the year 2017.
4. Sh Yohei Sasakawa for the year 2018.

About the Prize:

- Gandhi Peace Prize for Social, Economic and Political transformation through Non-violence was instituted in the year 1995.
- The Award comprises an amount of Rs. One Crore and a Citation.
- Ministry of Culture, Government of India, invites nominations of persons/organizations in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of Chapter IV of the Code of Procedure.
- The Award may be divided between two persons / institutions who are considered by the Jury to be equally deserving of recognition in a given year.
- Work by a person since deceased cannot be the subject of an Award.
- If, however, his death occurred subsequent to a proposal having been submitted to the Jury in the manner stipulated in the Code of Procedure, then a Posthumous Award may be made.

As per para 2 of Chapter VI of Code of Procedure of Gandhi Peace Prize, the Jury shall comprise of the following persons:-



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1.	Prime Minister of India	Chairman (ex-officio)
2.	Chief Justice of India	Member (ex-officio)
3.	Leader of the Opposition recognized as such in the Lok Sabha or where there is no such Leader of Opposition then, the Leader of the single largest opposition party in that House	Member (ex-officio)
4.	Eminent person	Nominated Member
5.	Eminent person	Nominated member

- This annual award is given to individuals, associations, institutions or organizations who have worked selflessly for peace, non-violence and amelioration of human sufferings particularly of the less-privileged section of society contributing towards social justice and harmony.
- The Award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender.
- Normally, contributions made during ten years immediately preceding the nomination are considered.
- Older contributions may also be considered if their significance has not become apparent recently.