

27th August 2024

India, US signed key defense supply pact

India and US signed two key pacts — a non-binding Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA) and a Memorandum of Agreement regarding Assignment of Liaison Officers.

Key Points

- ❖ The Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA) will mandate the US and India to provide reciprocal priority support for goods and services that promote national defense.
- ❖ The arrangement will enable both countries to acquire the industrial resources they need from one another to resolve unanticipated supply chain disruptions to meet national security needs.
- ❖ India is the 18th SOSA partner of the US after Australia, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, and the UK.

India US Defence Partnership

- ❖ India and the US have signed a troika of “foundational pacts” for deep military cooperation
 - The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016,



- the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) in 2018,

- The Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial cooperation (BECA) in 2020.

- ❖ General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) was signed a long time ago, an extension to it, the Industrial Security Annex (ISA), was signed in 2019
- ❖ The Kicklighter proposals (1991): to promote exchanges and explore areas of cooperation between the three Services.

MAJOR AGREEMENTS AND MECHANISMS:

- 2009 Counter Terrorism Cooperation Initiative
- 2012 Defence Technology and Trade Initiative
- 2015 Framework for the India-U.S. Defense Relationship
- 2015 Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region
- 2016 Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement
- 2016 Framework for the US-India Cyber Relationship
- 2018 Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement,
- 2019 Industrial Security Annex
- 2020 Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement

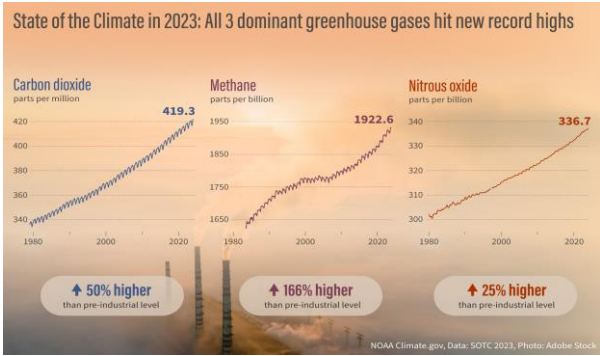
- ❖ Minute on Defence Cooperation (1995): for instituting a dialogue at the Defence Secretary level together with the setting up of a Technology Group.
- ❖ Joint Declaration on Defence Cooperation (2013).
- ❖ The U.S. categorized India as “a Major Defence Partner” in 2016.
- ❖ National Defence Authorisation Act (2017): has helped India in joining the export control regimes like the Australia Group, Missile Technology Control Regime and Wassenaar Arrangement.

State of the Climate in 2023 report in context of Drought

The State of the Climate in 2023 report was released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Key Points

- ❖ July 2023 set a new record with 8% of global land area under extreme drought, surpassing the previous high of 6.2% from July 2022.
- ❖ 29.7% of global land experienced moderate or worse drought, another record-breaking figure.
- ❖ 2023 was the warmest year on record, with global surface temperature 0.55-0.60°C above the 1991-2020 average



- ❖ Carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide reached new record levels.
- ❖ Global ocean heat content up to 2,000 meters depth set new records.
- ❖ Global mean sea level reached 4 inches (10 cm) above the 1993 average, a record high for the 12th consecutive year.
- ❖ Tropical cyclone activity was below average with 82 named storms, but the accumulated cyclone energy was above average, with over seven reaching Category 5.

One village in each block will be developed as 'Barsana' in Madhya Pradesh

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan addressed Country's first one of it's kind program,



the theme of 'Har Balak Krishna-Har Maa Yashoda' on Shri Krishna Janmashtami Mahotsav in Indore.

Key Points

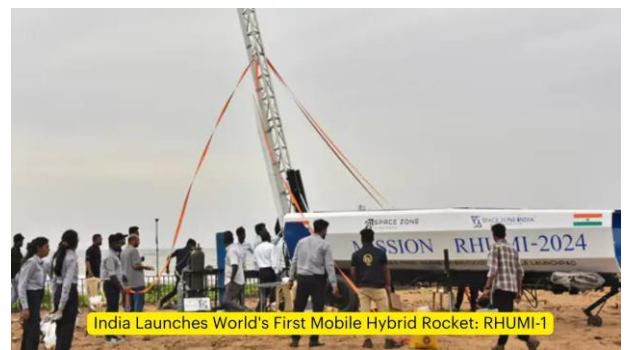
- ❖ The event is said to be first-of-its-kind as over 5,000 children dressed as Krishna and an equal number of mothers portraying Yashoda, participated in the event
- ❖ Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that one village will be selected from each development blocks of the state and developed as Barsana village.
- ❖ These villages will help spread ideals and principles of Lord Krishna. In Barsana village, where on the one hand, ancient culture will blossom; on the other hand, organic farming and milk production will be promoted.
- ❖ Madhya pradesh government will open centres on the lines of Geeta Bhawan in urban areas of the state which will give us an opportunity to discuss and debate various aspects of Lord Krishna.

India launches world's first mobile-launched hybrid rocket, RHUMI-1

World's first mobile hybrid rocket, RHUMI-1, was successfully launched from Thiruvidadhai in Chennai. RHUMI-1, developed by Tamil Nadu-based startup Space Zone India in collaboration with Martin Group.

Key Points

- ❖ The successful launch of the RHUMI-1 rocket marks the launch of the first reusable hybrid rocket in India.
- ❖ It was launched using mobile launcher and carried 3 Cube Satellites and 50 PICO Satellites, which will collect data on global warming and climate change.



- Cube satellites are a class of nanosatellites, weighing between 1-10 kg.
- Pico satellites are small satellites that typically weigh between 0.1 and 1 kg.

Features of RHUMI-1

- ❖ Hybrid Rocket Engine: RHUMI-1 is a hybrid rocket engine that uses a combination of solid and liquid propellants to improve efficiency and reduce operational costs.
- ❖ Adjustable Launch Angle: Precise adjustments from 0 to 120 degrees allow for meticulous control over its trajectory.

- ❖ **Electrically Triggered Parachute System:** An innovative, cost-effective, and eco-friendly descent mechanism ensures safe recovery of rocket components.
- ❖ **Environment Friendly:** RHUMI is 100% pyrotechnic-free and 0% TNT.

Offenses under SC/ST law

Recently, The Supreme Court ruled that not all insults or threats against SC/ST individuals are offenses under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

Key Points

- ❖ **Sections Involved:** Sections 3(1) (r) and 3(1) (u) of the 1989 Act deal with insulting an SC/ST person in public and promoting hatred or ill-will against SC/ST communities.
- ❖ **Context of the Case-** Shajan Skaria, editor of the YouTube channel “Marunadan Malayali” had been accused of posting a derogatory video against Kerala MLA P.V. Sreenijin, a member of the SC community.



Interpretation of the SC/ST Act

- ❖ **Legal Interpretation:** The court held that the SC/ST Act applies only when the insult or intimidation is intentional and directly linked to the victim’s SC/ST identity.
- ❖ **Criteria for offense:** For the insult to be considered an offense, it must reinforce caste-based discrimination or perpetuate historically entrenched notions of caste superiority, such as untouchability or purity.

India launches first-ever survey of high-risk Glacial Lakes

India has launched its first comprehensive survey of high-risk glacial lakes in Arunachal Pradesh’s Tawang and Dibang Valley districts. This initiative is part of the National Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Mission and led by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Key Points

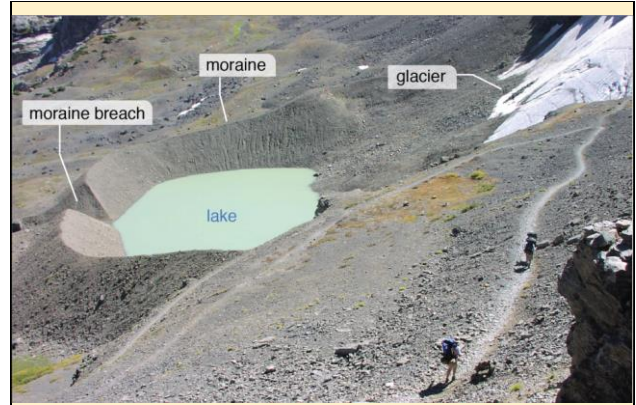
- ❖ It aims to assess and mitigate risks associated with potential glacial lake outburst floods.
- ❖ The survey is designed to evaluate the risks posed by glacial lakes in Tawang and Dibang Valley. It will assess the feasibility of installing early warning systems and other mitigation measures to prevent potential flooding.

- ❖ The survey includes evaluating accessibility, geocoordinates, lake boundaries, elevation, and land use patterns to facilitate the installation of Automatic Early Warning Systems and Automatic Weather Stations.



Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)

- ❖ A Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) occurs when a glacial lake's natural dam (often formed by glacial debris or ice) suddenly fails, releasing a massive volume of water downstream.
- ❖ This sudden release can lead to catastrophic flooding, damaging infrastructure, ecosystems, and communities located downstream. GLOFs are particularly concerning in glaciated regions due to their potential for large-scale destruction.
- ❖ National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme (NGRMP): The Centre has now approved the 150-crore National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme (NGRMP) on July 25.



- The programme aims at detailed technical hazard assessments, and installing automated weather and water level monitoring stations (AWWS) and early warning systems (EWS) at the lakes and in downstream areas.
- The primary objective of this programme is to attempt lake-lowering measures to reduce the risk of GLOF from such lakes.

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- ❖ Union Minister Chirag Paswan was re-elected as the national president of Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) for the next five years.
- ❖ Mumbai ranked second in prime residential price growth as per the Knight Frank Report 2024
- ❖ Australia has enacted a new "right to disconnect" law.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet recently cleared a proposal by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to set up public Wi-Fi access network interfaces.
- ❖ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) launched the National Medical Register (NMR) Portal of the National Medical Commission (NMC), developed by the National Health Authority (NHA)
- ❖ Recently, the Indian PM traveled from Poland to Ukraine due to the closure of Ukrainian airspace since the Russian invasion in February 2022.

News Shorts

- ❖ Goldman Sachs has reduced India's GDP growth forecasts, 6.7% for 2024 and 6.4% for 2025.
- ❖ Lando Norris Wins Dutch Grand Prix 2024

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Which Indian state is set to establish centers in urban areas for discussions on Lord Krishna's life?
- (a) Uttar Pradesh
 - (b) Rajasthan
 - (c) Gujarat
 - (d) Madhya Pradesh

Answer- (d)

2. Which rocket, launched by India, is recognized as the world's first mobile hybrid rocket?
- (a) GSLV Mk III
 - (b) RHUMI-1
 - (c) PSLV-C37
 - (d) Agni-VI

Answer- (b)

