

## Current Affairs of the Day

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1. Over 16 lakh affected in Assam floods

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1. Bid to turn Shivalik forest into tiger reserve

## MoD approves 33 new fighter jets in deals worth ₹38,900 cr.

### Key Points:

- Amid the tension on the border with China, the Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Thursday approved deals worth ₹38,900 crore.
- These include procurement of 21 MiG-29 fighter jets for the Indian Air Force (IAF), upgrade of 59 MiG-29s and acquirement of 12 Su-30 MKI aircraft.
- The approvals come a week after Mr. Singh's visit to Moscow for the Victory Day Parade.
- The other deals include Pinaka ammunition, armoured vehicle BMP armament upgrades and Software Defined Radio for the Army, Long Range Land Attack Missile Systems of over 1,000 km range and Astra Beyond Visual Range air-to-air missiles for the Navy and the IAF, all of which will be procured domestically and worth an estimated ₹31,130 crore.

### Aiming for the skies |

Deals worth ₹38,900 crore were cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on Thursday. An overview of select deals:

**1** At an approximate cost of ₹7,418 crore, twenty one MiG-29 fighter jets will be bought and 59 existing jets will be upgraded

**2** At an approximate cost of ₹10,730 crore, HAL will build twelve Sukhoi-30 MKI

aircrafts to replace the ones which crashed over the years

**3** Deals include 'Pinaka', an indigenously developed all weather, indirect fire, free flight artillery rocket system. It can

be used to neutralise a variety of targets such as exposed enemy troops, armoured and soft skin vehicles, communication centres, air terminal complexes, fuel and ammunition dumps

**4** Deals also include a Long Range Land Attack Missile System of over 1000 km-range and ASTRA, a Beyond Visual Range class of Air-to-Air Missile for fighter aircraft designed and developed by the DRDO



The MiG-29 fighter jet.  
= FILE PHOTO

## India's trade deficit with China dips to \$48.66 billion

### Key Points:

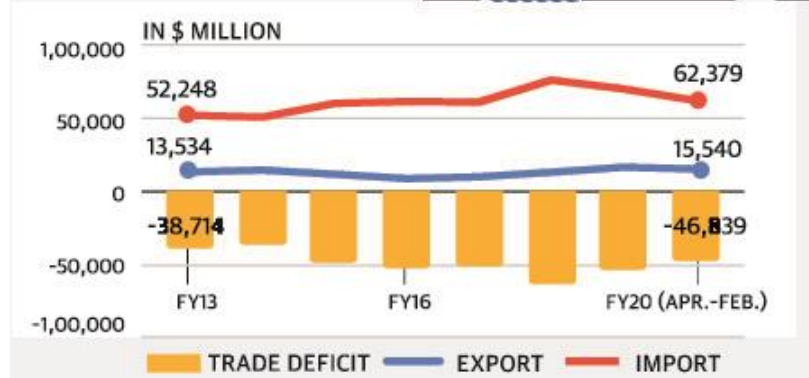
- India's trade deficit with China fell to \$48.66 billion in 2019-20 on account of the decline in imports from the neighbouring country, according to government data.
- **Exports & Imports:** Exports to China in the last financial year stood at \$16.6 billion, while imports aggregated at \$65.26 billion, the data showed. The trade deficit stood at \$53.56 billion in 2018-19 and \$63 billion in 2017-18.



- India has time and again raised concerns over the widening trade deficit with China. The government is framing technical regulations and quality norms for several products to reduce dependence on Chinese imports.

## Business ties

India's trade deficit with China has been widening every year. However, in the past two years, imports from China have decreased slightly



- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** from China in India dipped to \$163.78 million in 2019-20 from \$229 million in the previous fiscal, according to the data. India had received \$350.22 million in FDI from the neighbouring country in 2017-18 and \$277.25 million in 2016-17.
- From April 2000 to March 2020, India attracted FDI worth \$2.38 billion from China. In April, the government tightened norms for FDI coming from countries which share a land border with India. As per the amended FDI policy, a company or an individual from a country that shares a land border with India can invest in any sector only after getting government approval.

## India's first plasma bank launched in Capital

### Key Points:

- The Delhi government on Thursday inaugurated India's first plasma bank at ILBS Hospital in Vasant Kunj.
- Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal appealed to those who have recovered from COVID-19 to come forward and donate plasma to help others recover.



## Over 16 lakh affected in Assam floods

- The flood situation in Assam worsened after two successive days of improvement, affecting 16.03 lakh on Thursday. The number of affected people stood at 14.95 lakh.
- The Brahmaputra and three of its tributaries, were flowing above the danger mark, but at fewer stretches than 24 hours ago.
- The water level at the Kaziranga National Park receded over the past 24 hours. An update from the park said 73 of the total 223 anti-poaching camps were inundated. But the number of animals killed owing to the flooding increased to 25 from 18 on July 1. While four animals drowned, eight hog deer escaping the flooded park were run over by vehicles, despite speed restrictions.



### Fleeing animals killed:

- Animals fleeing a flooded Kaziranga, which has a core area of 430 sq km, have to cross the highway for the relative safety of the hills in Karbi Anglong district.

## Bid to turn Shivalik forest into tiger reserve

### Key Points:

- The Saharanpur Divisional Commissioner has sent a proposal to the Uttar Pradesh government to declare the Shivalik forest in the Saharanpur circle a tiger reserve.
- The State government is actively considering the proposal and would push it forward to the Centre to take a call, sources said.
- If accepted, it would be the fourth tiger reserve in Uttar Pradesh after **Amangarh in Bijnor, Pilibhit and Dudhwa in Lakhimpur-Kheri.**



## Concerns:

- With the **rising tiger population**, there is an increase in the number of clashes between tigers to protect their territory.
- The weaker ones often move into sugarcane fields where they can easily hide. But it increases the chances of **human-animal conflict**.



In such a scenario, it is necessary to increase the area for movement of tigers.

## ‘Lack of data impeding revival of MSMEs’

### Key Points:

- The Consortium of Indian Associations (CIA) has urged the Centre to develop Udyog Setu, a mobile application, similar to the Aarogya Setu to bail out the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that have been badly hit by COVID-19 as the lack of reliable data was impeding the sector's revival.
- The mobile application will contain all the data pertaining to the MSMEs such as the names of enterprises, turnover, number of employees, plant location and the like.
- “The financial stimulus package announced by the Centre for the MSMEs has been a damp squib. A helping hand could not be extended to MSMEs as we are lacking in data on industry, traders, migrant labour, informal workers and many such segments that are not yet the radar of the central and State governments,” said K.E. Raghunathan, convenor, CIA.
- It is necessary to map them immediately through Udyog Setu, similar to the Aarogya Setu. This will help us bring all enterprises, irrespective of size, under one platform.
- With respect to the ₹3 lakh-crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), only about ₹90,000 crore had been sanctioned and about ₹40,000 crore disbursed as on day 45.