



Current Affairs of the Day

GS Paper - II

- Nepal set to face fresh election
- India to bring more nations into coastal radar network
- India, U.S. mull over unfinished work

Prelims

- Ministry's move to give a fillip to indigenous sports



Nepal set to face fresh election

Highlights:

1. In an emergency Cabinet meeting held on Sunday morning, Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli recommended the dissolution of Parliament of Nepal and called for a general election.
2. Nepal held election in November-December 2017 and the elected 275-member Pratinidhi Sabha is expected to serve a full five-year term.
3. According to one Nepali leader, the decision is unconstitutional as there is no provision in our 2015 Constitution to dissolve Parliament that is functioning perfectly well, it amounts to a coup.

India to bring more nations into coastal radar network

Highlights:

1. As part of efforts to further expand the coastal radar chain network meant to enable real-time monitoring of the high seas for threats as also expand India's assistance for capacity building to Indian Ocean littoral states, efforts are in advanced stages to set up coastal radar stations in the Maldives, Myanmar and Bangladesh, according to defence sources.
2. Mauritius, Seychelles and Sri Lanka have already been integrated into the country's coastal radar chain network. Similar plans are in the pipeline with Maldives and Myanmar and discussions are ongoing with Bangladesh and Thailand.
3. The Indian Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) located in Gurugram, which was set up after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, is the nodal agency for maritime data fusion.
4. As part of information exchange regarding traffic on the high seas, the Navy has been authorised by the government to conclude white shipping agreements with 36 countries and three multilateral constructs.

Background:

The Navy's Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) which is meant to promote Maritime Domain Awareness.



India, U.S. mull over unfinished work

Unfinished Work:

1. The Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) waiver that allowed the U.S. President to waive sanctions on India's purchase of the S-400 missile systems from Russia. President Trump has not actually made the decision to give India a pass. Washington recently added that the sanctions could be actualised at any point and there is no "blanket waiver" possible.
2. India's consideration of the Russian S-400 and Sukhoi S-35 fighter jets is "problematic" (for Washington) as they would risk interoperability of India-U.S. defence systems.
3. Trade negotiations are to focus on reversing the decision to revoke India's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) since June 2019 due to differences in the areas of medical devices, dairy and IT products.
4. Meanwhile, officials hopeful of a commercial contract finally being finalised for the decade-old MoU between U.S.-based Westinghouse Electric Company and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) to build six reactors in Andhra Pradesh.

Background: Increasing defence Ties

The growing defence partnership, enhanced military exchanges bolstered by the signing of four foundational agreements: GSOMIA, LEMOA, COMCASA and BECA, U.S. grant of the STA-1 Strategic Trade Authorisation to India, capped by intelligence sharing and quick procurements during the ongoing standoff between Indian and Chinese troops at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), is clearly at the top of the list of achievements. Added to this is the crystallisation of the "Quad" arrangement.

Ministry's move to give a fillip to indigenous sports

Highlights:

1. The Sports Ministry has approved the inclusion of four indigenous sports, including Gatka and Kalaripayattu, in the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2021, scheduled to take place in Haryana. The other two games included are Thang-Ta and Mallakhamba.



2. India has a rich heritage of indigenous sports, and it is a priority for the sports ministry to preserve, promote and popularise these games.
3. In the coming years, we will be able to add more indigenous sports at the Khelo Games. The four selected games represent different parts of the country.

Background:

1. Kalaripayattu has its origin in Kerala and has practitioners all over the world.
2. Mallakhamba, meanwhile, has been well-known across India. Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have been the hotspots of this sport.
3. Gatka originates from the state of Punjab and this traditional fighting style of the Nihang Sikh warriors is used both as self-defence as well as a sport.
4. Thang-Ta, a Manipur martial art has passed into oblivion in recent decades, but the sport will get national recognition again with the help of the Khelo India Youth Games.