



## Current Affairs of the Day

### GS Paper - II

- Military specialists to get S-400 training in Moscow
- India asks WhatsApp to revoke changes in its privacy policy

### GS Paper - III

- 'Native 5G model must aid education, Agri, healthcare'
- 'India must remain a part of the global economy, open'



## Military specialists to get S-400 training in Moscow

*Issues: Strategic Autonomy, Prelims*

As India prepares to receive the first batch of S-400 long-range air defence system by year-end, the first group of Indian military specialists are scheduled to depart for Moscow soon to undergo training courses on the S-400.

### Highlights:

1. In October 2018, India signed a \$5.43-billion deal with Russia for five S-400 Triumf regiments despite objections from the U.S. and the threat of sanctions under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).
2. Work also is going on the India-Russia mutual logistics support agreement, strengthening maritime cooperation, including in the Indian Ocean.
3. In 2017, The Economist described the S-400 anti-missile system as one of the best air-defence systems so far. As per Seimon Wezeman, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), this defence system is the most advanced air defence system available.

## India asks WhatsApp to revoke changes in its privacy policy

*Issues: Need for Data protection law in India, European Best Practices*

The Union government has asked WhatsApp to withdraw the proposed changes to its privacy policy, stating that it raised "grave concerns" over the implications of the choice and autonomy of Indian citizens.

### Highlights:

1. In a letter to WhatsApp chief executive officer, the government pointed out that by not giving the option to opt-out of data-sharing with Facebook companies, **Indian users were being treated differently from those in Europe.**
2. Whether the new policy will enable better provision of service to users or not is beside the point, the issue is the impact it has on informational privacy, data security and user choice.



3. Sovereign independence of India's distinct identity and its people must be properly respected and any unilateral changes to WhatsApp terms of service and privacy would not be fair and acceptable.
4. The privacy policy offered by WhatsApp to its European users specifically prohibits the use of any information shared with a Facebook company for that companies' own purposes, while this clause is not present in the privacy policy offered to Indian users.
5. **This differential and discriminatory treatment of Indian and European users** is attracting serious criticism and betrays a lack of respect for the rights and interest of Indian citizens, who form a substantial portion of WhatsApp's user base.

### Mains:

Q. Absence of legal regime in India for Data protection provides companies with a highway for privacy abuse and discrimination. Elaborate and suggest a way forward.

## 'Native 5G model must aid education, Agri, healthcare'

*Issues: awareness in the field of IT*

India's appetite for 5G is going to be overpowering and therefore businesses must play a proactive role in creating a 'desi 5G model' that is inclusive and supportive of healthcare, education and farming.

### Highlights:

1. The Centre's Production-Linked Incentive Scheme: All the top companies have applied and they have committed to making mobile phones and equipment worth ₹10 lakh crore in the country in the next 5 years out of which ₹7 lakh crore will be meant for exports.
2. India has become the second-biggest mobile manufacturer in the world. India must also become a lead player in laptops, machine-to-machine equipment, tablets and IoT devices.



## **‘India must remain a part of the global economy, open’**

**Issues: Economic growth and development**

**News:** India must remain an integral part of the global economy if it has to grow at 9-10% over the next three decades, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said.

### **Export and Growth**

1. India needs to become a major global exporting nation. Without it, it will not be possible to become richer and create wealth for its people over the next three decades.
2. If India has to grow at 9-10% over a three-decade period, it must be open, it must be an integral part of the global economy. It must be an integral part of the global supply chain.
3. The government's Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative is not about protectionism, it is about making India part of the global supply chain.

### **The Power of technology in Post pandemic world**

1. According to the NITI Aayog CEO, post-COVID-19 pandemic, only those countries will grow who will use the digital ecosystem.
2. Post-pandemic, the global supply chain will be restructured, and you can be only competitive if you can use the power of technology.
3. The production-linked incentive (PLI) plan in electronics and mobile manufacturing has received very good response.