

BRAHMOS MISSILE

The Philippine Army has started negotiations with India's BrahMos Corporation to acquire batteries of the BrahMos supersonic anti-ship cruise missile.



About Brahmos Missile:

- It is a **supersonic** cruise missile.
- It is a **joint venture** between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India and NPOM of Russia.
- It is **named after the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva.**
- **Features:**
 - It is a **two-stage** missile with a **solid propellant engine** in the first stage and a **liquid ramjet** in the second.
 - The system has been designed with **two variants** for **Anti-Ship and Land-Attack** roles.
 - Brahmos is **one of the fastest** cruise missiles currently operationally deployed with the **speed of Mach 2.8**, which is nearly **3 times more than the speed of sound.**
 - It has a **launch weight** of **2,200-3,000 kg.**
 - It **operates on the "Fire and Forgets"** principle, adopting varieties of flights on its way to the target.
 - BrahMos is **equipped with stealth technology** designed to make it less visible to radar and other detection methods.
 - It has an **inertial navigation system (INS)** for use against ship targets, and an **INS/Global Positioning System** for use against land targets.



GRAMODYOG VIKAS YOJANA

Recently, the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi distributed Honey Bee-Boxes and Toolkits to 130 beneficiaries in the program which was organized under the 'Gramodyog Vikas Yojna' of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

About Gramodyog Vikas Yojana:

- It is one of the two components of **Khadi Gramodyog Vikas Yojana** which aims to promote and develop the village industries through common facilities, technological modernization, training etc.
- It includes the activities carried out under different village industries.
- **Components of the Yojana**
 - **Research & Development and Product Innovation:** R&D support would be given to the institutions that intend to carry product development, new innovations, design development, product diversification processes etc.
 - **Capacity Building:** Under the Human Resource Development and Skill Training components, exclusive capacity building of staff as well as the artisans would be adequately addressed through the existing MDTCs and institutions of excellence.
 - **Marketing & Publicity:** The V.I. institutions will be provided market support by way of preparation of product catalogue, Industry directory, market research, new marketing techniques, buyer seller meet, arranging exhibitions etc.

Key facts about KVIC

- It is a **statutory body** established under the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, of 1956**.
- The KVIC is charged with the planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programmes for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

JIMEX 2023



The Indian Navy is hosting the bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23), which takes place at/off Visakhapatnam.

About JIMEX 2023:

- This edition marks the 11th anniversary of JIMEX, since its **inception in 2012**.
- This exercise will witness the participation of **INS Delhi, INS Kamorta**, fleet tanker INS Shakti, a submarine, maritime patrol aircraft P8I and Dornier, ship-borne helicopters and fighter aircraft.
- The exercise will be conducted over **six days in two phases**.
- A harbour Phase at Visakhapatnam comprising professional, sports and social interactions.
- The two navies will jointly hone their war fighting skills at sea and enhance their interoperability through complex multi-discipline operations in the surface, sub-surface and air domains.
- JIMEX 23 provides an opportunity to learn from each other's best practices and facilitates operational interactions between IN and JMSDF to foster mutual cooperation and reaffirm their shared commitment towards maritime security in the region.

What are the other Exercises between India and Japan?

- **Malabar:** India and Japan with the United States and Australia participate in the naval war gaming exercise named Malabar.
- **SHINYUU Maitri** (Air Force)
- **Dharma Guardian** (Military Exercise)

WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT 2023

Recently, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) published its World Investment Report 2023.



Key findings:

- India and ASEAN were the most buoyant recipients of the Foreign direct investment (FDI), with increases of 10 and 5%, respectively.
- **FDI inflows were higher in developing countries** compared with those in developed economies.
- China, the second largest FDI host country in the world, saw a 5% increase.
- FDI in the **Gulf region declined**, but the number of project announcements increased by two thirds.

- Inflows in many **smaller developing countries** were **stagnant**, and FDI to the least developed countries (LDCs) declined.
- Much of the growth in international investment in **renewable energy** has been **concentrated in developed countries**.
- The **investment gap** across all sectors of the **Sustainable Development Goals** has increased to more than \$4 trillion per year from \$2.5 trillion in 2015.
- The largest gaps are in energy, water and transport infrastructure.

Key facts about the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

- It is a permanent **inter-governmental body** established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.
- It is responsible for dealing with development issues, particularly international trade.
- Framing policies in various domains such as trade, technology, finance, aid, and transport are the most important priorities of UNCTAD.
- The Conference ordinarily **meets once in four years**.
- The second UNCTAD Conference took place in New Delhi, India in 1968.
- **Members:** 195 countries
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Reports published by the UNCTAD:** Trade and Development Report, The Least Developed Countries Report and Commodities and Development Report etc.

EARTH RECORDS HOTTEST DAY EVER: CAUSES, WHAT LIES AHEAD

Why in News?

- July 3 and July 4, have been measured to be the hottest two days for the earth ever.
- The global average temperature on July 3 was measured to be 17.01 degree Celsius. The next day recorded 17.18 degree Celsius.

Is 17-degree Celsius Too Warm?

- A 17-degree Celsius temperature may not appear to be particularly warm.
- But this temperature was not over any one place or region. Instead, this is a measure of the global average temperature for the day, the average over both land and ocean, including the ice sheets in

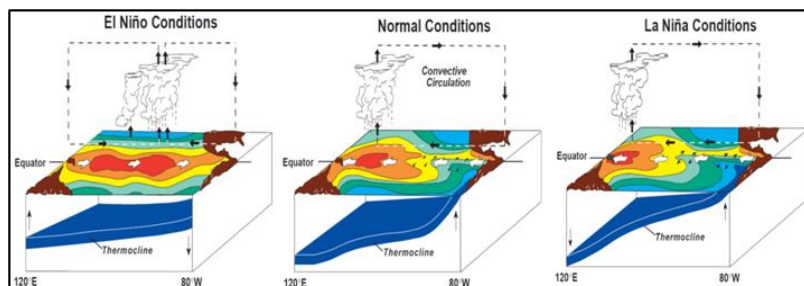
the polar region and the snow of the high mountains where surface temperatures are well below zero degree Celsius.

- **Average temperatures over oceans are around 21-degree Celsius**, and oceans occupy nearly 70 per cent of the earth's surface.
- The Antarctic Ice Sheet, where temperatures can easily drop to -50-degree Celsius, covers about 8.3 per cent of earth's surface.
- The glaciers and ice caps in the mountain are estimated to account for about another 0.5 per cent of the surface.
- Before the 17-degree Celsius mark was breached on June 3, the hottest daily temperature happened to be 16.92-degree Celsius, recorded in August 2016.

Impact of El Nino on Rising Global Temperature:

- On July 4th, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) announced the formal onset of the El Nino phase in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.
- The WMO warned that this onset of El Nino could lead to further increases in temperature this year.
- **El Nino is an abnormal warming of sea surface waters in the Pacific**, off the northwestern coast of South America.
- It is a large-scale climate driver known to have an overall warming effect on the planet.

What is ENSO (El Nino and Southern Oscillation)?



- ENSO is one of the most important climate phenomena on earth due to its **ability to change the global atmospheric circulation**, which in turn, influences temperature and precipitation across the globe.
- Though ENSO is a single climate phenomenon, it has three states, or phases, it can be in:

- **El Nino:**
 - A warming of the ocean surface, or above-average sea surface temperatures (SST), in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
 - It is associated with lower than normal monsoon rainfall in India.
 - **La Nina:**
 - A cooling of the ocean surface, or below-average SSTs, in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
 - It is associated with a comparatively better monsoon rainfall in India.
 - **Neutral:**
 - Neither El Nino nor La Nina.
 - Often tropical Pacific SSTs are generally close to average.
-

[RBI PANEL RECOMMENDS MEASURES FOR INTERNATIONALISATION OF RUPEE](#)

Why in news?

- A Reserve Bank of India-appointed working group recommended various measures to accelerate the pace of internationalisation of the rupee.
- This included inclusion of the rupee in the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket and recalibration of the foreign portfolio investor (FPI) regime.

Internationalisation of the rupee

- **About**
 - Internationalisation of the rupee is a process that involves increasing use of the local currency in cross-border transactions.
 - Basically, it is a process of promoting and increasing the use of the INR as a widely accepted currency for international transactions and investments.
 - It involves enhancing the currency's acceptance, liquidity, and usability in global markets.
- **Steps taken to promote international trade settlement in rupees**

- In July 2022, the RBI has provided an additional arrangement for invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports/imports in the rupee.
- As part of this mechanism, in December 2022, India saw its first settlement of foreign trade in rupee with Russia.
- So far banks of 19 countries including the UK, New Zealand, Germany, Malaysia, Israel, and United Arab Emirates have been permitted to make settlements in rupees.

Special Drawing Rights (SDR)

• About

- The SDR is an **international reserve asset**, created by the IMF in 1969 to **supplement its member countries' official reserves**.
- The IMF **uses SDRs for internal accounting purposes**.
- It should be noted that SDRs are **neither a currency nor a financial claim** on the IMF.
- SDRs are a **potential claim of IMF** members on freely usable currencies.

• Basket of currencies determining the value of the SDR

- The value of the SDR is based on a **basket of five currencies**.
- These currencies are - U.S. dollar, euro, Chinese renminbi, Japanese yen, and British pound sterling.
- Currencies included in the SDR basket have to **meet two criteria: the export criterion and the freely usable criterion**.
- The value of the SDR is determined on daily basis. It is based on **weighted market exchange rates of the basket currencies**.

• SDR Allocation

- SDRs are allocated to each of the countries that are IMF members.
- The amount of SDRs that are allocated to each country is **based on their individual IMF quotas**.
- IMF quotas are based broadly on the relative economic position of the country in the world economy.
- The quota is essentially a country's financial commitment to the IMF and its voting power.

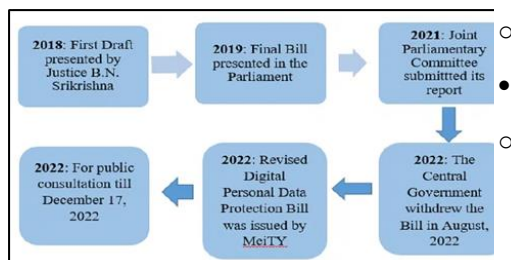
- The IMF determines whether there is a **need for a new allocation of SDRs in the global economy every five years.**
- The recent allocation was done in August 2021.

DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL, 2022

Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022

• **Background:**

- In November 2022, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology introduced a revised Bill for the protection of digital personal data.
- The bill was titled as “The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022”.
- This bill replaced the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019.



• **About**

- This bill has been introduced to provide for the processing of digital personal data in a manner that recognizes both:
 - the right of individuals to protect their personal data and
 - the need to process personal data for lawful purposes.

• **Applicability**

- The Bill will apply to the processing of digital personal data within India where such data is: (i) collected online, or (ii) collected offline and is digitised.
- Personal data is defined as any data about an individual who is identifiable by or in relation to such data.
- It will also apply to the processing of personal data outside India, **if it is for offering goods or services or profiling individuals in India.**

Data Protection Board of India

- The central government will establish the Data Protection Board of India to adjudicate non-compliance with the provisions of the Bill.
- The Central government has control in appointing members of the Data Protection Board.
- **Penalties**
 - The Bill specifies penalties for various offences such as:
 - up to Rs 150 crore for non-fulfilment of obligations for children and
 - up to Rs 250 crore for failure to take security measures to prevent data breaches.
 - Penalties will be imposed by the Board after conducting an inquiry.

News Summary: Bill on data protection gets Cabinet approval

- Union Cabinet approved the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022.
 - The Bill is one of the four proposed legislations in the IT and telecom sectors to provide the framework for the rapidly growing digital ecosystem.
 - The other three proposed legislations are:
 - **Digital India Bill** — the proposed successor to the Information Technology Act, 2000;
 - **Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022;** and
 - **a policy for non-personal data governance.**
 - The 2022 Bill, approved by the Cabinet, have retained the contents of the original version of the legislation proposed last November.