

2019



drishti

CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

16th December- 21st December



BusinessLine



1. '2+2' Dialogue

Why in News?

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark Esper held talks with their Indian counterpart External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for the second “2+2” combined ministerial meeting in Washington, USA.

- The first “2+2” dialogue was held in New Delhi in September 2018.

Key Outcome

- Industrial Security Annex (ISA) was signed between India and the US.

Industrial Security Annex (ISA)

- ISA agreement allows sharing of classified information from the US government and US companies with the Indian private sector.
- It will give a boost to the Indian private sector looking for a greater role in defence manufacturing.
- Till now, sharing of information was limited to the Indian government and the defence public sector undertakings.

'2+2' talks

- It is a format of dialogue where the defence and foreign ministers or secretaries meet with their counterparts from another country.
- India holds ministerial-level talks with the US in this format.
- India holds such talks with Japan and Australia, at the foreign secretary and defence secretary level.

“Four Foundational Agreements” between the US and its Partners

- **General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)**
 - GSOMIA allows militaries to share the intelligence gathered by them.
 - Signed by India in 2002.
- **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)**
 - LEMOA allows both countries to have access to each other's designated military facilities for refueling and replenishment.
 - Signed by India in 2016.
- **Communications and Information Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA)**

- COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) is the India specific version of CISMOA.
- Valid for 10 years, COMCASA aims to provide a legal framework for the transfer of highly sensitive communication security equipment from the US to India that will streamline and facilitate interoperability between their armed forces.
- Signed by India in 2018.
- **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)**
 - BECA will allow India and US to share geospatial and satellite data with each other.
 - India has not signed BECA yet.

2. Global Refugee Forum

Why in News?

The first ever Global Refugee Forum (GRF) was recently held in Geneva, Switzerland.

- It was jointly hosted by the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** along with Government of Switzerland.
- The aim of GRF was to debate and discuss the response of the world's countries to the global refugee situation.

About Global Refugee Forum

- Global Refugee Forum is guided by the **Global Compact on Refugees**, which emerged from the **New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in 2016**.
 - The United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the declaration in 2016.
 - It reaffirms the importance of the international refugee regime and contains a wide range of commitments by Member States to strengthen and enhance mechanisms to protect people on the move.
- The GRF will be **held every four years** at the Ministerial level.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

- It is a **UN Refugee Agency** and a global organisation dedicated to saving lives, protecting the rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.
- It was **created in 1950** to help millions of Europeans who had fled or lost their homes.
- It is headquartered at **Geneva, Switzerland**.

Who is a Refugee?

As per United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention, *a refugee is a person who fled his/her home and country owing to a well-founded fear of persecution either because of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or due to political opinion.*

3. Indian Pharmacopoeia

Why in News?

Afghanistan has become the first country to recognise the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP). It will also be used based on the requirement as reputable pharmacopoeia in the laboratory of medicines and health products quality.

Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)

- IP is an officially recognised book of standards as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- It specifies the standards of drugs manufactured and marketed in India in terms of their identity, purity and strength.
- The second schedule of the act designates IP as an official book of standards for drugs imported and manufactured for sale, stock and exhibition for sale and distribution in India.
- It ensures the quality of medicinal products and keeps a check on the implementation of legal and scientific standards provided by Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC).

4. Macau Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Why in News?

Recently, Macau celebrated 20th anniversary since the former Portuguese colony was returned to China.

About Macau

- Macau was formerly a colony of the Portuguese Empire. It returned to Chinese rule in December, 1999.
- The **Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR)** is an integral part of China and example of China's “**one country, two systems**” model.
 - One country, two systems is a constitutional principle describing the **governance of Hong Kong and Macau.**

- Hong Kong was a colony of the British Empire. The territory was returned to China in 1997.
- Macau is situated on the south-east coast of China near the mouth of the **Pearl River**. It is 60 km west of Hong Kong.
- It consists of the **Macau peninsula** and the two islands of **Taipa and Coloane**.
- Macau does not practice China's socialist economic system and enjoys a high degree of autonomy in all matters except foreign and defence affairs.
- Macau is heavily **dependent on the gambling industry** with its casinos contributing about 80% of government income.


drishti

To Watch the Video on YouTube,
[Click Here](#)