

2020



drishti

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

24<sup>th</sup> February - 29<sup>th</sup> February



## **1. India-US Relations**

### **Why in News?**

US President Donald Trump visited India between 24-25 February.

- He is the 7<sup>th</sup> US president to visit India.

### **Important takeaways:**

- **India and the US signed two MoUs:**

- MoU on Mental Health:
  - It will facilitate greater access of Indian traditional therapies and medicines to the large US market.
- MoU on the Safety of Medical Products:
  - The MoU was signed between the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) with the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA).
  - It will help increase access to generic drugs in the US, which is one of the largest markets for generic medicines. While India is the largest producer of generic medicines.

- **A Letter of Cooperation:**

- On liquefied natural gas (LNG) pipeline infrastructure.
- Signed between Indian Oil Corporation Limited and ExxonMobil India LNG Limited and Chart Industries Inc, US.
- To facilitate LNG supply by road, rail and waterways to areas not connected by physical pipelines.

- **Intellectual Property Rights:**

- India and the USA have decided to come up with a comprehensive agreement on intellectual property rights (IPR).

- **Defence:**

- Both countries have vowed to strengthen their bilateral relationship to a **Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership (CGSP)**. The CGSP will:
  - Deepen defense and security cooperation, especially through greater maritime and space domain awareness and information sharing.
  - Promote joint cooperation, advanced training and expanded exercises between all services and special forces.
  - Facilitate closer collaboration on co-development and co-production of advanced defense equipment and partnership between their defense industries.
  - The CGSP was initiated in 2013.
- **Strategic Convergence in the Indo-Pacific**
  - Both countries concurred that a close partnership between them is central to a free, open, inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

- India's role as a net provider of security in the Indian Ocean Region, was acknowledged.
- India and the US have concluded the agreement for the purchase of **24 MH-60R Seahawk**, and **six AH-64E attack helicopters (Apache)**.
- The leaders agreed to early conclusions of **defense cooperation enabling agreements**, including **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)**.

### **Defense Cooperation Enabling Agreements:**

- India has signed three of the four foundational agreements for defence cooperation with US:
  - **General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)**
    - GSOMIA allows militaries to share the intelligence.
  - **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)**
    - LEMOA allows both countries to have access to each other's designated military facilities for refueling and replenishment.
  - **Communications and Information Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA)**
    - India signed COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) in 2018.
    - It is an India specific version of CISMOA.
    - It provides a legal framework for the transfer of communication security equipment from the US to India to facilitate interoperability between their forces.
  - **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)**
    - BECA will allow India and US militaries to share geospatial and satellite data with each other.
    - India has not signed BECA yet.

## **2. Myanmar President Visits India**

### **Why in News?**

Myanmar's President recently visited India.

- 10 agreements were signed between the two countries, focusing on socio-economic development of Myanmar.

### **Key Agreements:**

- **Infrastructure and Connectivity:**
  - India will support the establishment of **Myanmar's diplomatic academy** and extend the **National Knowledge Network** to Myanmar.
  - An agreement regarding **Indian Grant Assistance** for

implementation of **Quick Impact Projects (QIP)** was also signed.

- Under this, India will take up capacity development work in the form of small projects which yield quick beneficial results for the local people.
- India and Myanmar will start a bus service between **Imphal and Mandalay** from April 2020.
- India will assist Myanmar in the construction of **Integrated Checkpoint** at **Tamu**, Myanmar, bordering **Manipur**.
- **Rakhine State Development Programme:**
  - India signed a development programme for **Rakhine State** in Myanmar in late **2017**.
  - It aims to assist the Myanmar government to build housing infrastructure for displaced Rohingyas.
  - India has committed to **add more projects** under this programme.
- **Cooperation under other sectors:**
  - India has decided to offer medical radiation equipment **Bhabhatron II** for the treatment of cancer patients and strengthen cooperation in the health sector.
  - India will help Myanmar with the project of **e-ID cards**, which is modelled after the Aadhaar project.
  - The two sides showed commitment to continue negotiations on pending treaties like Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) and Extradition Treaty.
    - Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties are agreements between governments allowing for the exchange of evidence and information in criminal and related matters between the signing countries.
    - Extradition Treaty is an agreement or arrangement made by India with a Foreign State, relating to the Extradition of fugitive criminals.
    - Extradition treaties are traditionally bilateral in character.
  - An MoU has also been signed on '**Cooperation for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons; Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Re-Integration of Victims of Trafficking**' between the two countries.