

## Current Affairs: 15.06.2021

### 47th G7 Summit

- Recently, the Indian Prime Minister addressed the 47th [G7 Summit](#) 2021 through video conferencing.
  - G7 is an informal intergovernmental organisation of seven countries – US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and UK.
  - It represents 40% of the global GDP
  - In 2021 Summit India, South Africa, Australia and South Korea were invited as guest countries.

### *Significant outcomes of the Summit known as Carbis Bay Declaration*

- **G7 shall secure more than 1 billion covid-19 vaccine doses** either through donating surplus supplies funds or providing further finance to [Covax](#), a scheme backed by UN to distribute vaccines to low and middle-income countries
- **It shall increase the climate finance contributions** and meet and overdue spending pledge of dollar hundred billion a year to help poor countries cut carbon emissions
- **Infrastructure plan was announced** to rival China's Belt and Road initiative by supporting project such as Railways in Africa and wind farms in Asia
- It backed a [minimum tax of at least 15%](#) on large multinational companies to stop them from using tax havens to avoid taxes
- India has sought G7's support for the proposal made at the WTO by India and South Africa for a TRIPS waiver on covid related Technologies.

### Innovations for Defence Excellence

- Recently, the Defence Minister has approved the budgetary support of Rs. 498.8 crore to **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) challenge** under the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) for the next five years.

### *About iDEX*

- It was launched by the Prime Minister in April **2018**.
- It **aims to achieve self – reliance and foster innovation** and technology development in Defence and Aerospace.
  - It engages Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia.
- **Funded and managed by: DIO**
  - It also functions as the executive arm of DIO.
  - DIO is a 'not for profit' company registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013.

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○ **Founding members:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) & Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) – Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).

- It will provide the engaging industries with funding and other support to carry out Research & Development.
- iDEX has partnered with leading incubators in the country to provide hand holding, technical support and guidance to the winners of iDEX challenges.

## Modifications in FAME II Scheme

- Department of Heavy Industry (DHI) has recently modified [FAME II scheme](#).
- **Objective of the modification:** To drive adoption of electric vehicles

### *Modifications*

- Introduction of a **demand incentive** of Rs. 15,000 per kWh for electric two wheelers with a maximum cap at 40% of the vehicles' cost.
- Launch of an aggregate demand for 300,000 electric [three- wheelers](#) by Energy Efficiency Services Limited.

### *FAME scheme*

- It was launched in 2015
- It forms a part of **National Electric Mobility Mission Plan 2020**.
- It **aims to promote manufacturing of electric and hybrid vehicle technology** and to ensure sustainable growth of the same
- Phase 2 of the scheme was approved for a period of **three years** starting from first April 2019
- It **aims to generate** demand by way of supporting e-buses, e 2-wheelers, e three- wheelers
- By selling over 75,000 vehicles FAME has so far resulted in **savings** of over 20 million litres of fuel and has led to almost 40 million kg **reduction** in CO2.

## India-China relations, a year after Galwan

**Context:** Defence Minister on June 12 approved a revised policy on how India compiles, archives and disseminates its war documents and related history.

### **As per the new policy,**

- Once an operation/war is completed, the first cut of history is to be prepared and disseminated for internal circulation **within five years**.
- Whether this first draft of history is to be placed in the public domain or not, will be determined on a **case by case basis**, depending on the sensitivity of the operation/war.
- Predictably, the Henderson **Brooks-Bhagat report relating to the 1962 war** with China, which is still under wraps, will not be part of the new policy. Apparently, another committee will take a view on previous wars.

### **A year after [Galwan Incident](#)**

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Carefully shaped narratives about the military defending national sovereignty and territorial integrity are crucial for any political leadership — authoritarian or democratic — and Galwan has special salience for both China and India.

- India has interpreted Galwan as a case of **Chinese aggressiveness** and places the onus on Beijing to restore the status quo.
- In China, the incident is being projected as a case of guarding the border and defending the motherland. The incident has been used to stoke pride in military and **muscular nationalism** domestically.
- **India's narrative about Galwan remains opaque** and there has been no detailed official statement from the Ministry of Defence on the current tactical situation in Ladakh.

## Way Ahead

- The Galwan anniversary should encourage the government to set up an independent **panel of experts to review the institutional lapses** that led to an altered LoAC in the Ladakh sector.
- Concurrently, Delhi will need to objectively review and **anticipate what the PLA may embark upon next**.
- The incident should encourage government to craft affordable and effective long-term strategic/security policies that are **not clouded by political compulsions**.