

1ST STEP TOWARDS BUILDING STEALTH COMBAT DRONES

In News:

- India successfully conducted the maiden flight of an unmanned autonomous flying wing technology demonstrator.
- This is the first yet vital step towards building a full-fledged stealth combat drone capable of firing missiles and dropping bombs.

In Focus: Drones: Threat to Internal Security

Background:

- In June 2021, the Indian Air Force (IAF) base in Jammu was attacked using two low-intensity improvised explosive devices (IEDs).
 - These IEDs were dropped from two drones.
- It was the first time that suspected Pakistan-based terrorists have used unmanned aerial vehicles in an attack.
- These attacks have restarted a debate around drones as a threat to internal security.

Threat to internal security

- **Transfer of weaponry to terrorists –**
 - Drones are capable to ferry arms and ammunition across the international border.
 - In December 2019, the Punjab police unmasked a terror network using drones to ferry arms and ammunition across the international border from Pakistan.
- **Attack on critical infrastructure**
 - In September 2019, the Saudi Arabia's largest oil field was attacked using a swarm of drones.
 - This highlights the capability of drone in carrying out pinpointed attack on critical infrastructure of a nation.
- **Intelligence gathering**
 - Drones have proved its usefulness in intelligence gathering and surveillance.
 - If we closely analyse the pattern of drone detection on Indo Pak borders, we can say that drones are widely being used to gather information.

- **Supports Organised Crime**

- The use of drones, especially by the drug cartels, is not a new modus operandi.
- These methods are frequently used by the Mexican drug cartels on the US Mexico border for smuggling of drugs and other contrabands.

- **Challenge to anti-terror operations**

- Police and security forces, trained in conventional methods to counter-terrorism, find themselves clueless when confronting unmanned aerial vehicles.

Why Tackling Drone is Challenging?

- Conventional radar systems fail to detect small flying objects. If these radars are calibrated to detect drones, these systems might confuse a bird for a drone.
- Currently, border forces in India largely use eyesight to spot drones and then shoot them down.
- Shooting these drones are very difficult as they fly at altitude difficult to target.
- Technology to disable their navigation, interfere with their radio frequency, or just fry their circuits using high energy beams have also been tested.
- None of these has, however, proven fool-proof.

India's anti-drone technology

- India's DRDO has made some investments in anti-drone technologies such as the ADITYA Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) and laser dazzles.
- The DRDO's Counter-Drone System was deployed for VVIP protection at:
 - the Republic Day parades in 2020 and 2021,
 - former US President Donald Trump's visit to Motera Stadium, Ahmedabad.
- Hyderabad-based technology R&D firm Grene Robotics has designed and developed India's first indigenous drone defence dome called **Indrajaal**.

News Summary

- India has carried out the maiden flight of the Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator.
- The test of the demonstrator, also known as the 'Stealth Wing Flying Testbed' (SWiFT), was successfully conducted from the Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga, Karnataka.

- SWiFT has been developed as a technology demonstrator for India's secretive steal combat drone called Ghatak.

FLOATING SOLAR POWER PROJECT

India's largest floating Solar Power Project is now fully operational.



About:

- NTPC declared Commercial Operation of the final part capacity of 20 MW out of 100 MW Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project at Ramagundam, Telangana with effect from July 01, 2022.
- With the operationalisation of 100-MW Solar PV Project at Ramagundam, total commercial operation of Floating Solar Capacity in Southern Region rose to 217 MW.
- Earlier, NTPC declared Commercial operation of 92 MW Floating Solar at Kayamkulam (Kerala) and 25 MW Floating Solar at Simhadri (Andhra Pradesh).
- The solar modules are placed on floaters manufactured with HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) material.

YAIR LAPID

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 1 congratulated Yair Lapid for assuming the Premiership of Israel and said he looks forward to furthering the bilateral strategic partnership as the two countries celebrate 30 years of full diplomatic relations.



About:

- Yair Lapid officially became the 14th Prime Minister of Israel.
- Lapid's term could be the short one as he take over

the caretaker government ahead of Israel's election which was scheduled to take place on November 1.

- Israel's Parliament voted on June 30 to dissolve itself and send the country to the polls in November for the fifth time in less than four years.

DAK KARMAYOGI

‘Dak Karmayogi’, an e-learning portal of the Department of Posts was launched by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Communications.



About:

- This portal has been developed ‘In-House’ under vision of ‘Mission Karmayogi’, which was conceptualized by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a view to bring efficiency in actions of all the employees of Government of India and transforming efficiency of bureaucracy with ‘Minimum Government’ and ‘Maximum Governance’.
- ‘Dak Karmayogi’ portal will enhance the competencies of about 4 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks & Departmental employees by enabling the trainees to access the uniform standardized training content online or in blended campus mode to enable them to effectively deliver a number of G2C services for enhanced customer satisfaction.

47th GST COUNCIL MEETING

The 47th GST Council met under the Chairmanship of Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in Chandigarh.



The GST Council has inter-alia made the following recommendations:

- 18 per cent of GST will be applied to bank cheque book and 12 per cent will be applied on maps, atlas and globes. The rate

rationalisation decision implies that printing, writing and drawing ink will get costlier.

- Non-branded pre-packed lassi, curd, butter milk, food items and grains will now be a part of the GST.
- GST rates on medical items, including ostomy and orthopaedic appliances – splints and other fracture appliances, artificial body parts which are worn or implanted in the body has been reduced to five per cent.
- The GST for transport of good and passengers via ropeway has been reduced from 18 per cent to five per cent. Also, the renting of truck which includes fuel cost will now stand at 12 per cent.
- As part of the revised rates, GST on LED lamps, lights and fixture, their metal printed circuits board, drawing and marking instruments will be increased from 12 per cent to 18 per cent.
- The GST rates have been increased for services supplied by a foreman in a chit fund, jobs related to leather goods and footwear, processing of hides and skins, manufacturing of clay bricks, contracts for roads, bridges, railways, metro among others.