

IN THE US'S F-16 PACKAGE TO PAKISTAN, INDIA'S CONCERNS

In News:

- Recently, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had conveyed concerns to his American counterpart Lloyd Austin on the US decision to provide Pakistan with a \$450 million package.
- As per the US officials, the package is to **refit Pakistan's large F-16** aircraft fleet with the latest technological advances.

News Summary

The package to Pakistan

- Recently, the United States announced a \$450 million package to refit Pakistan's large F-16 aircraft fleet with the latest technological advances.
 - This is the first American military assistance package to Pakistan after the Trump Administration ended defence and security co-operation with the country in 2018.
 - F-16 fighter jets are now in use by the Pakistan Air Force, which started acquiring them from the US in the 1980s.
 - The present package includes, elements for fleet maintenance such as repairs, replacement parts, software, and software support.
- The proposed package does not include any new capabilities, weapons, or munitions.
- It only includes technical and logistics services for follow-on support of Pakistan's F-16 fleet.

Why India is worried?

- With nearly 2000 miles as its range of operation, the F-16 has obvious usage against India.
- Security analysts believe that the sustainment programme for Pakistan's F-16 fleet would enhance conventional deterrence against India.
 - The last aerial skirmish (fight) between Pakistan and India was in February, 2019.
 - During this, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) brought down a MiG-21 flown by IAF pilot Abhinandan Varthaman.
 - It showed that the F-16 is the aircraft that Pakistan will use in any future encounter with India.

- As a result, India will have to effectively enhance conventional combat capability of the IAF to continue to meet the challenge of a resurgent PAF.
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PLAN TO DOUSE EV FIRES – NEW INDUSTRY STANDARDS, BATTERY NORMS FROM OCT 1

In News:

- Recently, eight people died of suffocation following a fire that broke out in a building housing an electric vehicle (EV) dealership.
- These recent incidents of EVs catching fire across the country has prompted the government to formulate expert committees to investigate the fires and also come up with regulatory changes for safer EVs.

Background:

- India has committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) in November 2021.
- This will require clear pathways to decarbonize high greenhouse gas (GHG) intensive sectors such as transport and energy.
- To decarbonize transport, the transition to clean mobility, led by electric vehicles (EVs), is paramount.
- India is on the cusp of an e-mobility revolution led by the two-wheeler (2W) and three-wheeler (3W) vehicle segments.
- 2Ws account for 70-80% of all private vehicles, and 3Ws play a critical role for public transit, freight transport and last mile connectivity in cities.

EVs in India:

- Retail sales of electric vehicles clocked 4.2 lakh units in FY22 (April 2021-March 2022), as compared to 1.34 lakh units in FY21.
- The surge in sales can be attributed to increase in the availability of products in the market, high fuel prices, state subsidies and sops offered under the **FAME-II Initiative**.

About FAME-II Scheme:

- Launched in 2015, the Fame India scheme is an incentive scheme that encourages the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles.
- The full form of **FAME India** scheme is “Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles in India”.
- In 2019, the Central government approved Phase-II of FAME Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 Crore for a period of 3 years.
 - Earlier this year, it was extended to March 31, 2024.
- Phase-II aims to generate demand by way of supporting 7000 e-Buses, 5 lakh e-3 Wheelers, 55,000 e-4 Wheeler Passenger Cars (including Strong Hybrid) and 10 lakh e-2 Wheelers.
- Nearly 2 lakh vehicles have been supported under the FAME-II scheme.

CENTRE SIGNS PACT WITH EIGHT ARMED TRIBAL GROUPS IN ASSAM

In News:

- The Centre, Assam government and eight armed adivasi groups signed a **tripartite agreement** to end the decades-old crisis of adivasis and tea garden workers.

Tea Tribes Community

- There are more than 1000 tea gardens in Assam where workers originally coming from Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have engaged themselves and subsequently settled in Assam permanently.
- They are known as Tea and Ex-Tea Garden Tribes, who are recognized as **Other Backward Classes by the Government**.
- These people not only constitute a sizable chunk of the population in the State but also play major role in tea production of the State.
- People belonging to the tea tribes communities are spread all over the State of Assam.
- Economically, they are quite backward and literacy level among these communities is extremely low.

Why this community chose violent path?

- **Historical injustice**

- These Adivasis, who settled in Assam tea gardens, were subjected to various forms of torture & sufferings (slave like conditions) under the colonial regime.
- Also, the British planters, in collusion with administration, had systematically grabbed the lands of the indigenous tribal population in Assam almost throughout the colonial period.
- Their conditions hardly changed in post-colonial period. As a result, in the post-colonial period, they increasingly mobilized themselves at various levels.

- **Identity politics**

- The tea tribes form a distinct population of Assam and are demanding Scheduled Tribe status from the state.
- They are demanding this status to counter the unequal distribution of power and resources in present-day Assam.
- This has unleashed social and political tensions.

- **Persecution faced**

- The violence upon the community had increased following the rise of ethnic nationalism and related militancy in Assam.
- There were two ethnic clashes between Bodo and Adivasi during the 1990s at the height of Bodoland statehood movement.

News Summary

- The Centre and Assam Government signed a tripartite agreement with eight armed tribal groups in Assam to bring them into the mainstream and give them political and economic rights.

ROGER FEDERER

Roger Federer, one of the greatest tennis player of all time, has decided to bid farewell to professional tennis after the conclusion of the Laver Cup 2022 next week.



About:

- Roger Federer is a Swiss professional tennis player.
 - He was ranked world No. 1 by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) for 310 weeks, including a record 237 consecutive weeks.
 - He has won 103 ATP singles titles, the second most of all time, including 20 Grand Slam singles titles, a record eight men's singles Wimbledon titles, an Open Era record-tying five men's singles US Open titles, and a record six year-end championships.
 - Federer has played in an era where he dominated men's tennis along with Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic as the Big Three, collectively considered by some to be the three most successful male tennis players of all time.
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VINESH PHOGAT

Vinesh Phogat has become the first Indian woman wrestler to win two medals at the World Championships after clinching a bronze in 53 kilogram category in Belgrade, Serbia.



About:

- The Commonwealth Games 2022 gold medalist defeated reigning European champion Emma Malmgren of Sweden.
 - This is her second bronze medal at the Championships. She had previously earned a podium position in the 2019 edition of the tournament at Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
 - Vinesh Phogat is an Indian wrestler. She became the first Indian woman wrestler to win gold in both Commonwealth and Asian Games.
 - Phogat became the first Indian athlete to be nominated for Laureus World Sports Awards in 2019. Vinesh is the cousin of wrestlers Geetha and Babita. Both her cousins have won gold in 55 kg category in Commonwealth Games.
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ASSAM TRIBALS PEACE AGREEMENT

A tripartite peace agreement was signed between Centre, Assam Government and eight tribal groups of Assam in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.



About:

- The agreement was signed to end decade old crisis of tribal groups and tea garden workers in Assam.
- The tribal groups which have signed the agreement include, Birsa Commando Force, Adivasi People's Army, All Adivasi National Liberation Army, Adivasi Cobra Military of Assam and Santhal Tiger Force.
- The agreement will prove to be another milestone in the direction of making North East region extremism free by 2025.
- Shah said, several agreements have been signed to ensure peace and development in the North Eastern region in the last three years. He said, NLFT agreement in 2019, BRU-REANG and Bodo accord in 2020, Karbi Anglong agreement in 2021 and Assam-Meghalaya inter-state boundary agreement this year has resolved around 65 per cent of border disputes.

BORDER SECURITY FORCE (BSF)

BSF's first female camel riding squad is ready to be deployed along the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan and Gujarat.



About:

- The squad will participate for the first time in the BSF Raising Day Parade on 1ST December. This Squad will be the first of its kind in the world.
- The Border Security Force (BSF) is India's border guarding organisation on its border with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- It is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) of India, and was raised in the wake of the 1965 war on 1 December 1965.
- It comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

The Government of India told the Supreme Court that the law does not allow undergraduate medical students, who fled the “war-like situation” in Ukraine, to be accommodated in Indian medical colleges.



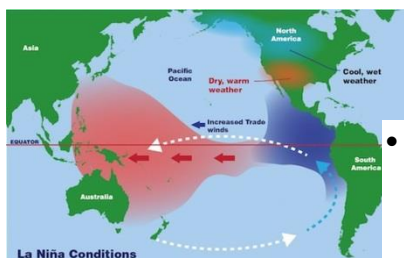
About:

The affidavit from the Health Ministry was in response to petitions filed by students, in their first to fourth year of undergraduate medical studies in Ukraine, seeking transfer to colleges in India to continue their semesters here.

- So far as such students are concerned, there are no provisions either under the Indian Medical Council Act of 1956 or the National Medical Commission Act 2019 as well as the Regulations to accommodate or transfer medical students from any foreign medical institutes/colleges to Indian medical colleges.
- Till now, no permission has been given by the National Medical Commission to transfer or accommodate any foreign medical students in any Indian medical institute/university, the Health Ministry said.

LA NINA

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology on September 13 confirmed the occurrence of La Niña phenomenon for the third consecutive year in the Pacific Ocean.



About:

- The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) on August 31 had stated that the oceanic and atmospheric phenomenon would last until at least the end of the year, and for the first time this century, span three consecutive northern hemisphere winters to become a ‘triple dip’ La Nina.



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- El Nino and La Nina, which mean ‘the boy’ and ‘the girl’ in Spanish, are mutually opposite phenomena, during which an abnormal warming or cooling of sea surface temperatures is observed in the Pacific Ocean along the equator, off the coast of South America.
- Together they constitute what is known as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation system, or ENSO for short.
- ENSO conditions can alter both temperatures and rainfall globally, due to their strong interference on global atmospheric circulations.
- It is a recurring phenomenon and the change in temperature is accompanied by changes in the patterns of upper and lower level winds, sea level pressure, and tropical rainfall across the Pacific Basin.
- Normally, El Nino and La Nina occur every four to five years. El Nino is more frequent than La Nina.

