

## Daily Current Affairs: 29.04.2021

### 1. SIPRI Report: India 3<sup>rd</sup> highest military spender in 2020



- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute released its “Trends in world Military Expenditure, 2020” report. According to the report, India was the third largest military spender in the world in 2020, behind only the US and China.
- The US accounted for 39 percent of the money spent on the military globally, China accounted for 13 percent, and India accounted for 3.7 percent of the globe’s share.
- The military expenditure of India has grown by 2.1% and that of China has grown by 1.9%. The military Expenditure of the US has grown by 4.4%.
- Global military expenditure rose to \$1981 billion in 2020, an increase of 2.6 percent from 2019.

Rank	Country	Spending
1	US	USD 778 Billion
2	China	USD 252 Billion
3	India	USD 72.9 Billion

- **About Stockholm International Peace Research Institute:** It is an international institute based in Stockholm. It was founded in 1966 and provides data, analysis and recommendations for armed conflict, military expenditure, and arms trade as well as disarmament and arms control.

### 2. Ladakh Ignited Minds: A Centre of Excellence and Wellness (An Indian Army initiative in partnership with HPCL)



- As part of the Indian Army's sustained initiative to secure a better future for Ladakhi youth, the Leh based Corps of Indian Army, signed an MoU with corporate partner **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** and executing agency **National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation, (NIEDO)** at Leh.
- The project Ladakh Ignited Minds: A Centre of Excellence and Wellness has been conceptualized to secure a better future for the youth of UT of Ladakh and is a full-time residential program to mentor and guide them for a period of twelve months for entrance examinations of various Medical and Engineering Colleges spread across in India.
- The program under the aegis of Indian Army will be executed by Kanpur based NGO, National Integrity & Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO). Army would oversee the overall operations to include administration and logistics with requisite funding support through Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).



- **Facts about Ladakh:**  
**Union territory established:** 31 October 2019  
**Capital** Leh, Kargil  
**Lieutenant Governor:** Radha Krishna Mathur

### 3. DRDO conducts maiden trial of Python-5 Air to Air Missile



- Tejas, India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft, added the 5th generation Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) in its air-to-air weapons capability on April 27, 2021.
- Trials were also aimed to validate enhanced capability of already integrated Derby Beyond Visual Range (BVR) AAM on Tejas.

- The missiles were fired from Tejas aircraft of Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) flown by Indian Air Force (IAF) Test pilots belonging to National Flight Test Centre (NFTC).

#### 4. Cabinet approves agreement between the India and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters



- The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the signing and ratification of an Agreement between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters.
- **Impact:** The Agreement will help in the availability of relevant information for the prevention and investigation of Customs offences. The Agreement is also expected to facilitate trade and ensure efficient clearance of goods traded between the countries.
- **Background:** The Agreement would provide a legal framework for sharing of information and intelligence between the Customs authorities of the two countries and help in the proper application of Customs laws, prevention and investigation of Customs offences and the facilitation of legitimate trade.

#### 5. UK becomes first country to announce regulation of use of self-driving vehicles at slow speeds on motorways



- Britain's transport ministry said that it was working on specific wording to update the country's highway code for the safe use of self-driving vehicle systems. It added that the ministry will start with Automated Lane Keeping

Systems (ALKS) - which use sensors and software to keep cars within a lane, allowing them to accelerate and brake without driver input.

- According to the government, the use of ALKS would be restricted to motorways, at speeds under 60 km per hour. The UK government wants to be at the forefront of rolling out autonomous driving technology and the transport ministry forecasts by 2035 around 40% of new UK cars could have self-driving capabilities, creating up to 38,000 new skilled jobs.

## **6. Justice Rajesh Bindal appointed acting Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court**



- The President of India in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, appointed Shri Justice Rajesh Bindal, senior-most Judge of Calcutta High Court, to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice of that High Court with effect from 29th April, 2021 following the retirement of Shri Justice Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan, Chief Justice, Calcutta High Court.

## **7. Central Government appoints Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth as a Director on the Central Board of RBI**



- The Central Government has appointed Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India as a Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India.
- A 1987-batch Karnataka cadre IAS officer, Seth assumed charge of the Department of Economic Affairs in April 16, 2021.
- Seth replaces Tarun Bajaj, who was appointed as Revenue Secretary.

## 8. Odia and English author Manoj Das passes away



- Manoj Das, an eminent Indian author who wrote in Odia and English, passed away.
- Das was awarded Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Bhushan in 2020 for his contributions in the field of literature and education. He received the first Sri Aurobindo Puraskar for his research on the lesser-known facts of India's freedom struggle led by Aurobindo. He was also honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award fellowship.

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