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A note from Smart Abhyas



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It would mean the world to us if you think that the content we are providing is worthwhile and spread the word to fellow aspirants out there.

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Polity and Social Issues



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1. Strategic Partnership model finally takes effect

What is the issue?

- The Strategic Partnership Policy has finally come into effect.

What does the policy intend to do?

- Promote Indian Private Sector participation in defence manufacturing through initiatives like Make in India.

About the policy:

- The policy acknowledges that the Indian private sector currently has “limited experience in defence manufacturing and even lesser in respect of final integration” of complex defence systems and sub-systems
- Besides any experience in defence manufacturing, potential SPs will be identified primarily based on their experience and competence in integration of multi-disciplinary functional system of systems, engineering and manufacturing.
- In a bid to avoid cancellation of deals in case of a single vendor situation, the policy states that “even if only one Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) submits a proposal in any given segment, the process of technical evaluation will be completed

Significance of this policy:

- The SP is expected to play the role of a system integrator by building an extensive ecosystem comprising development partners, specialized vendors and suppliers

2. India has 31% of the world's poor children says report

What is the issue?

- Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative has pointed out that 31% of the world's ‘multidimensionally poor’ live in India in Global Multidimensional Poverty Index.

Highlights of the report:

- 31% of the 689 million poor children live in India, followed by Nigeria (8%), Ethiopia (7%) and Pakistan (6%)
- In terms of the number of such multidimensionally poor children as a proportion of the total population, India stood 37th among 103 countries.
- Of the 145 crore people (from the 103 countries) who are multidimensionally poor, 48% are children. That is a total of 68.9 crore children.

Who is a ‘multidimensionally poor’ child?

- A “multidimensionally poor” child lacks at least a third of ten indicators, grouped into three dimensions of poverty: health, education and standard of living.

About the report:

- The report consists of 10 indicators grouped into 3 categories.
- The health dimension comprises of indicators such as nutrition, child mortality, and education
- Under standard of living are indicators such as access to cooking fuel, improved sanitation, safe drinking water and electricity.

3. Data protection law in the making**What is the issue?**

- Government is thinking over introducing a new data protection law to protect personal information of citizens as well as creating a framework to enable safe and effective public data mining.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEIT) is working on a new data protection law

Why this is important at this point in time?

- The move assumes significance amid the debate over security of individuals' private data, including Aadhaar-linked biometrics, and the rising number of cyber-crimes in the country.
- A lot of benefits can be derived from the data that is publicly available, by using technology and big data analytics.
- India has ratified the UN's International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which contains an obligation to protect privacy.

Present situation:

- There is a data protection law in India in the form of the Reasonable Security Guidelines under Section 43A of the Information Technology Act. However, it is a toothless law and is never used.
- Some redress for misuse of personal data by commercial entities is also available under the Consumer Protection Act enacted in 2015. As per the Act, the disclosure of personal information given in confidence is an unfair trade practice.

4. New labour survey every quarter

What is the issue?

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has started a Periodic Labour Force Survey, which will provide quarterly labour and employment data for urban India and annual data for rural India.

How is the new survey different from the old format?

- The new survey system will provide quarterly labour and employment data while the old survey provided the same data once in 5 years.

About the survey:

- The data will be collected from large and small enterprises and so that informal sector activity is also captured.

- Will also incorporate a Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) method, with field operators using tablets to enter the data. This would generate more accurate and timely information

5. India frames a new 'law' for Antarctica

What is the issue?

- India is drafting a dedicated Antarctica policy and a law keeping in mind a more populous future for the continent wherein the continent may see more tourists, over-exploited fisheries, disputes and crime.
- A committee that includes Biman Patel, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat National Law University, has been asked to draft the new 'Antarctica law.'

India and Antarctica:

- India, being among the countries that have acceded to the Antarctica Treaty, is expected to have a clear policy on the consequences of its activities in the region.
- The treaty is framed to ensure 'in the interests of all mankind that Antarctica shall continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and shall not become the scene or object of international discord'.
- To this end it prohibits military activity, except in support of science; prohibits nuclear explosions and the disposal of nuclear waste; promotes scientific research and the exchange of data; and holds all territorial claims in abeyance.

India's base in Antarctica:

- Dakshin Gangotri, the first Indian base established in 1984, has weakened and become just a supply base.
- The government is rebuilding its station, Maitri, to make it bigger and last for at least 30 years.