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## **IAF-LCA Tejas deal: A big boost for India's self-reliance and defence preparedness**

### **Context:**

- The government has approved India's largest-ever indigenous defence procurement deal to buy 83 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Tejas, from the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at the cost of Rs. 45,696 Crore.

### **About the deal:**

- 73 Tejas Mk 1A and 10 Tejas Mk 1 trainer jets will be delivered to the Indian Air force (IAF) by 2026, to the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- The procurement of the combat aircraft is the first under 'Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)' category procurement.
- It has an indigenous content of 50 per cent which is expected to go up to 60 per cent by the end of the programme.
- The government has also given the nod for the IAF to develop infrastructure for handling repairs or servicing of these aircraft at its base depots.

### **About Tejas:**

- It is the lightest, smallest supersonic multi role fighter aircraft.

- It is a single-engine, delta wing aircraft designed for aerial combat and offensive air support.
- The multi-role lightweight fourth generation fighter is equipped with a range of air-to-air and air-to-surface precision guided missiles with a range of 3000 kms.
- It has a service ceiling of 15 km carrying a payload of 3,500 kgs at supersonic speeds.
- The state-of-the-art composite materials used to build the aircraft have apparently helped its designers to cut the jet's weight dramatically, which helps in evading radar detection.
- This aircraft has a capability to fire Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missiles, bombs and precision-guided munitions.
- It will replace the MiG-21 fighter planes in the IAF fleet.

### **Significance:**

- Tejas is indigenously designed, developed and manufactured for IAF and Indian Navy.
- The deal is considered as the biggest indigenous defence procurement to boost Make in India initiative.
- It will be a big boost to the idea of self-reliance, or 'Atma Nirbhar', in India's defence preparedness.
- It will help in fostering the local industries and help in Skill Development of the young workforce.
- It is expected to generate more than 5000 jobs across the country.
- The deal will enable IAF to sustain the fleet more efficiently and effectively due to availability of repair infrastructure at respective bases.
- There will be progressive indigenisation of critical technologies and this will make India a technologically self-reliant nation.

### **Efforts to boost export:**

- The first time 'Tejas' had an international exposure was during the Bahrain International Air Show in 2016.
- The LCA is considered to be the world's lightest supersonic fighter.
- In 2020, the government has set an ambitious target of achieving USD 5 billion in defence export in the next five years.
- Being a low-cost and advanced multirole fighter jet, it has attracted the attention of countries like Malaysia and the UAE.

- It is designed to offer easy integration for both European and Russian weapon systems which will augment the LCA's potential for export, since foreign buyers will have the option of integrating different platforms on the aircraft.
- India is exploring the possibilities of exports to not only the ASEAN region but to South America and the African nations.
- To boost the global sales for its flagship Tejas fighter, HAL has decided to set up logistics bases in Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka.

### **Suggestions:**

- Considering the urgent need India has to expand its fighter fleet, a low cost lightweight indigenous jet seems to be the answer to the country's defence budget.
- Their indigenous content right now is at 50%, therefore, the newer ones have the scope of adding another ten per cent of such components.
- There is a need to speed up the development of the LCA Mk II: a twin-engine variant of the LCA. The LCA Mk II can fill the void left by the phasing out of the IAF's Mirage-2000 medium weight fighters which is expected to happen in 2027.
- We should form a national advisory group of LCA for effective execution and technology adoptions. There is a need for HAL to increase annual production capacity.

## **Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) designation and Specially Designated Global Terrorists.**

### **Context:**

- Ahead of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) meeting, the US administration has retained the Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) designation for the Lashkar-e-Taiba.

## **About Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO):**

- Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) are foreign organizations that are designated by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).
- It is meant for any organization which is considered to be involved in what US authorities define as terrorist activities.
- The Lashkar-e-Tayyiba was first notified as a terror group by the United States in December 2001.

## **Significance of designation:**

- FTO designation is an effective means of curtailing support for terrorist activities and pressuring groups to get out of the terrorism business.
- It seeks to deny the terrorist organisations, the resources to plan and carry out terrorist attacks.
- All designated groups' property and interests, within the United States or that come within the possession or control of U.S. persons, are blocked.
- U.S. persons are generally prohibited from engaging in any transactions with them.
- It is a federal crime to knowingly provide, or attempt or conspire to provide, material support or resources to them.

## **Recent Measures:**

- The US State Department decision to continue treating the Lashkar-e-Tayyiba as a terror organisation suggests that it is as potent as ever despite cosmetic steps taken by Islamabad.
- The US State Department order comes ahead of the Financial Action Task Force meeting next month that will assess the progress made by Pakistan to curb terror financing.
- Pakistan was put in FATF's grey list in 2018 after the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog pointed out failing to control terror financing and money laundering.
- But Islamabad is yet to take any concrete action and the Pakistani deep state continues to support terrorist activities in India and Afghanistan.

- FATF president Marcus Pleyer cautioned that Pakistan could not take forever to deliver on its commitments and repeated failure to deliver would result in the country being put in the blacklist.

### **About Financial Action Task Force:**

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris.
- It is a “policy-making body” which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in various areas.
- The FATF Plenary is the decision making body of the FATF. It meets three times per year.
- **Objectives:**
  - It sets standards and promotes effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- **Headquarter:**
  - Its Secretariat is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.
- **Member Countries:**
  - It consists of thirty-seven member jurisdictions.
  - India is one of the members.
- **FATF has two lists:**
  - **Grey List:** Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.
  - **Black List:** Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.

# **Kayakalp Awards**

## **Context:**

Recently the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has conferred 5th National Kayakalp Award to the Public And Private Health Facilities for High Standards of Sanitation and Hygiene.

## **About the Award:**

This Award was launched on 15 may 2015 as National Initiative to ensure sanitation, Hygiene, cleanliness in the best of Public. In the initial year 716 District Hospitals have participated in it but this year about 26000 Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres have participated.

## **Objective:**

To recognise and facilitate these District hospital, Sub divisional Hospital, Common Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and Health and Wellness Centres in the Public Health care system who have achieved a high level of cleanliness and hygiene.

## **Parameters for evaluation:**

1. Hospital/Facility upkeep
2. Sanitation and Hygiene
3. Waste Management
4. Infection Control
5. Support Service
6. Hygiene Promotion

## **Assessment:**

Three tier stage to assessment

1. Internal Assessment
2. Peer Assessment

### 3. External Assessment

#### ❖ **Mera Aspataal-**

This has been launched to check patient reaction to the service offered by Hospital so that they can improve their services

#### ❖ **Swachh Swasth Sarvatra-**

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Drinking water and sanitation has launched this scheme under which Community Health Centre has been selected and who has taken measures to improve facilities in Hospital will be given Ten Lakhs Rupees for that.

## **2020 Adaptation Gap Report released**

### **Context:**

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched the 5th edition of the Adaptation Gap Report in a high-level online press event.

### **About Adaptation Gap Report 2020:**

- The emissions gap reports analyse the estimated gap in 2020 between emission levels consistent with the goal of keeping global average temperature increase in this century below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and projected levels if emission reduction pledges by parties are met.
- The aim of the reports is to inform national and international efforts to advance adaptation.

**From 2020** and onwards, the Adaptation Gap Report will consist of **two main parts**:

- **The First Part:**

- It consists of a recurrent assessment of global progress on adaptation in **three areas**:
  - Planning,
  - Financing
  - Implementation.
- This part will include both **quantitative** (through indicators to be defined in the 2020 report) and **qualitative assessments** of adaptation progress.
- It aims to facilitate tracking of developments over time and provides input to the UNFCCC Global Stocktake process defined in the Paris Agreement.

- **A Second Part:**

- It provides a deeper assessment of the status of adaptation within a particular sector or theme, but still framed around the same three elements as part one (planning, financing and implementation).
- The focus of the second part should change from year to year. In 2020, the topic will be Nature Based Solutions.

### **Key Findings of the Report:**

- The UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2020 finds that while nations have advanced in planning, huge gaps remain in finance for developing countries and bringing adaptation projects to the stage where they bring real protection against climate impacts such as droughts, floods and sea-level rise.
- Public and private finance for adaptation must be stepped up urgently, along with faster implementation.
- **Nature-based solutions:**
  - The UNEP report also underscored the importance of nature-based solutions as low-cost options that reduce climate

risks, restore and protect biodiversity, and bring benefits for communities and economies.

- It refers to locally appropriate actions that address societal challenges such as climate change.
- It provides human well-being and biodiversity benefits by protecting, sustainably managing and restoring natural or modified ecosystems.

- **Global commitment needed:**

- Adaptation is a key pillar of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- It aims to reduce countries' and communities' vulnerability to climate change by increasing their ability to absorb impacts.
- Annual adaptation costs in developing countries are estimated at \$70 billion, but the figure could reach up to \$300 billion in 2030, and \$500 billion in 2050.
- Almost three-quarters of nations have some adaptation plans in place, but financing and implementation fall "far short" of what is needed, according to the UNEP report.
- Stepping up public and private finance for adaptation is, therefore, urgently needed.

- **Cutting emissions will reduce costs:**

- Cutting greenhouse gas emissions will reduce the impacts and costs associated with climate change, according to the report.
- Achieving the 2 degrees Celsius target of the Paris Agreement could limit losses in annual growth to up to 1.6 per cent, compared to 2.2 per cent for the 3 degrees Celsius trajectory.
- UNEP urged all nations to pursue the efforts outlined in its December 2020 Emissions Gap Report, which called for a green pandemic recovery and updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that include new net-zero commitments.

The report focused on developing countries, where adaptation needs are anticipated to be the highest and adaptive capacity is often the lowest.