

Climate change opens up

- Arctic giving access to new routes and resources, there is a race by adjoining countries to build up their militaries and Russia has a clear lead over them.

Why are the Russian icebreakers significant?

- Russia WANTS TO BECOME Arctic power earlier-Arktika and Sibir “Rossiya,” displacing up to 71,380 tonnes, would be completed by 2027.
- 2027 Icebreaker fleets- Yakutia, ural earlier-Arktika, and Sibir “Rossiya,” displacing up to 71,380 tonnes, would be completed by 2027.
- Northern Sea Route, which cuts down the time to reach Asia by up to two weeks compared to the current route via the Suez Canal.
- In line with this, the updated Russian naval doctrine, unveiled, envisages “diversifying and stepping up naval activities on the Spitsbergen, Franz Josef Land and Novaya Zemlya archipelagos and Wrangel Island.
- Unlike Antarctica, the Arctic is not a global common accentuating the problem. For instance, the North Atlantic Treaty
- Organization (NATO) has been conducting

- Regular exercises in the region while partnering
- Countries are partnering in upgrading military Capabilities.
- At the same time, China, which calls itself to be a near arctic state, has also announced ambitious plans for a ‘polar silk route’ to connect to Europe as well as building massive icebreakers.

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India stands with respect to the Arctic

- In March 2022, India unveiled its first Arctic policy, Titled: ‘India and the Arctic: Building a Partnership for Sustainable Development’. India is also one of the 13 Observers in the Arctic Council, the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation in the Arctic.
- **Shall OTT be included in the Telecom act?**
- OTT communication services are applications or value-added. Communication services that ride on the basic communication services that telcos provide.
- OTT communication services are already covered under the existing IT Act. It will continue to be so under the proposed Digital India Act.

Whether it is encryption, data storage, interception, or cooperation with law enforcement, OTTs can be and are regulated but not licensed or pre-authorized.

How does one make a distinction between them?

- An OTT communication service provider and any other OTT platform or service that includes communication services???
- Telecom Bill will impact only India-based OTT on players. Those operating from overseas would not be impacted. Hardly any other country has equated OTT communication services with foundational telecommunication services including OTT communication services. Providers within the ambit of the Telecom Bill could seriously compromise the energy, innovation, and funding that characterizes India's Startup ecosystem today.

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India-Australia trade pact

- Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) with India, paving easier market access
- For Indian services and goods. Australia has been particularly upset with what it called the 'weaponization of trade' by China. Two countries are already part of such as the four-nation Quad, the trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative, and the Indo-Pacific Economic Forum (IPEF) towards a 'China plus one strategy.'
- India expects bilateral trade to rise to about \$50 billion from the current level of \$31 billion in five years, with Indian exports driving half this surge, creating a million new jobs in labour-intensive sectors. Zero duty benefits on 98.3% of Australian tariff lines, from the day the agreement comes into force, will be extended to all Indian products within five years.
- With raw materials such as coal, metals, and wool dominating its shipments, that means cheaper inputs for Indian firms.
- Annual visa quotas for Indian chefs and yoga trainers, and a post-study work visa regime for Indian students will bolster ties, the approval of a double taxation avoidance agreement by Australia, which is
- India's first major free trade deal with a Developed economies signed the Economic

expected to save millions of dollars a year for Indian IT firms.

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Draft Aircraft Security Rules, 2022

- Draft Aircraft Security Rules Enables, which enable the aviation security regulator, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), to Impose penalties of up to ₹ 1 crore on airports and airlines for violation of security measures. Can impose a fine of ₹ 50 lakh to ₹1 crore on airports and airlines if airlines prepare and implement a security program, or if they commence operations without seeking a security clearance.
- Large airports can also face a penalty of ₹1 crore if they fail to plan the design and layout of the airport in accordance with the National Civil Aviation Security Program. Individuals will also face penalties ranging from ₹1 lakh to ₹25 lakh depending on the nature of the offense.

About BCAS

- The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) was initially set up as a Cell in the DGCA in January 1978 on the recommendation of the Pande Committee. The BCAS was reorganized into an independent

department under the Ministry of Civil Aviation on 1st April 1987. The main responsibilities of BCAS include laying down standards and measures with respect to the security of civil flights at international and domestic airports in India.

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Chicago Convention

- Convention on International Civil Aviation (also known as Chicago Convention), was signed on 7 December 1944 by 52 States. The Convention establishes rules of airspace, aircraft registration, and safety, and details the rights of the signatories in relation to air travel; it also exempts air fuels from tax.

News

- Pakistani PM Name's exspy master Asim Munir to be new Army chief Anwar Ibrahim sworn in as Prime Minister of Malaysia. Asia-Pacific is the part of the world near the western Pacific Ocean. The Asia-Pacific region varies in the area depending on the context, but it generally includes East Asia, the Russian Far East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and Pacific Islands, and SC questions 'lightning speed' of EC appointment Domestic

demand to help offset dent in
Exports from global slowdown.

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