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Offences against National Security

Why in News?

The NIA court in Kochi has found that two arrested persons in the case related to theft of computer hardware from Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) had no intention to threaten national security. Both were arrested by NIA in June 2019 and a charge sheet was filed against them under Section 66F of IT Act, cyber terrorism, threatening national security and various offences under IPC. Around 20 hardware items, all stolen from aircraft carrier, were recovered by NIA. After filing the charge sheet, the duo applied for bail but the NIA objected claiming that content in one of the solid-state drives was found erased thus committing an offence under Section 66F of IT Act. However, the court granted bail to one of the accused while the other accused's plea was dismissed.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the national security and the issues related to it.

General Studies I:

- Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

General Studies II:

- Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

General Studies III:

- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money laundering and its prevention.
- Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

General Studies- IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

- Case Studies

Articles Link

<https://thewire.in/rights/accountability-jurisprudence-abuse-of-law-state-officials-rights>

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<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/2020/oct/15/nia-court-rejects-national-security-angle-in-iac-theft-case-grants-bail-to-second-accused-2210345.html>

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/oct/14/jhansi-college-rape-case-administration-recommends-up-govt-to-slap-nsa-charges-against-eight-accuse-2210247.html>

<https://thewire.in/caste/national-security-act-obscur-ing-flaws-indias-criminal-justice-system>

Video Links

In Depth: National Investigation Agency

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lDcnv1xS_lw

Internal Challenges to India's National Security

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPDp_-GHAT0

Trans Boundary Water Dispute

Why in News?

The Tibetan plateau is often called the “Third Pole”, owing to its glacial expanses and vast reserves of freshwater. For as many as nine countries in the surrounding region, the status of rivers emerging from the plateau is a key concern.

China has claimed express ownership over Tibet’s waters, making it an upstream controller of seven of South Asia’s mightiest rivers – the Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy, Salween, Yangtze and Mekong. These rivers flow into Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam, and form the largest river run-off from any single location. It is estimated that 718 billion cubic meters of surface water flows out of the Tibetan plateau and the Chinese-administered regions of Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia to neighbouring countries each year.

Nearly half that water, 48%, runs directly into India.

For India, the one domain in which China’s status as the “upper riparian” provides an almost insurmountable challenge is in ensuring shared access to transboundary rivers. And as the recent clashes on the Sino-Indian border have made clear, India needs to assess how China might “weaponize” its advantage over those countries downstream. Control over these rivers effectively gives China a chokehold on India’s economy.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the Trans Boundary Water Dispute and the issues related to it.

General Studies I:

- Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.

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- History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society.
- Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- Salient features of world's physical geography.
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

General Studies II:

- Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- India and its neighbourhood- relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

General Studies III:

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
- Disaster and disaster management.

Articles Link

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/india-china-relations-and-geopolitics-water>

https://globalasia.org/v10n01/cover/neighborhood-tensions-indias-trans-boundary-water-relations_ramaswamy-r-iyer

https://carnegieendowment.org/files/Viashwanath_GBM_Basin_October_2018.pdf

Figures and Maps

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Scale 1: 13 000 000 1 cm = 130 kms

https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Transboundary-rivers-of-Bhutan-India-Nepal-and-Bangladesh-source-Biswas-et-al_fig1_233036010

Video Links

In Depth - Indo-Pak water treaty: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zsn-Q0uAxog>

Indian Aviation Sector

Why in News?

Until the beginning of this year, India's aviation sector was on a rapid ascent. Passenger volume growth of 3.2 x for domestic traffic and 2.1x for international traffic over the last decade and forecast of double-digit growth through 2028 was the pre-corona aviation narrative.

Day trips between metros were the norm; it was cheaper to fly to some international destinations compared to some domestic ones; and an increasing number of travellers were taking to the skies.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the present condition of the aviation sector, how the pandemic has affected the sector, jobs scenario, contribution in the economy and the issues related to it.

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General Studies I:

- Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).

General Studies II:

- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

General Studies III:

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
- Government Budgeting.
- Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.
- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

Articles Link

<https://www.ibef.org/industry/indian-aviation.aspx>

<https://www.investindia.gov.in/sector/aviation>

<https://www.zvest.in/INDIAN-AVIATION-SECTOR.pdf>

<https://www.indianmirror.com/indian-industries/aviation.html>

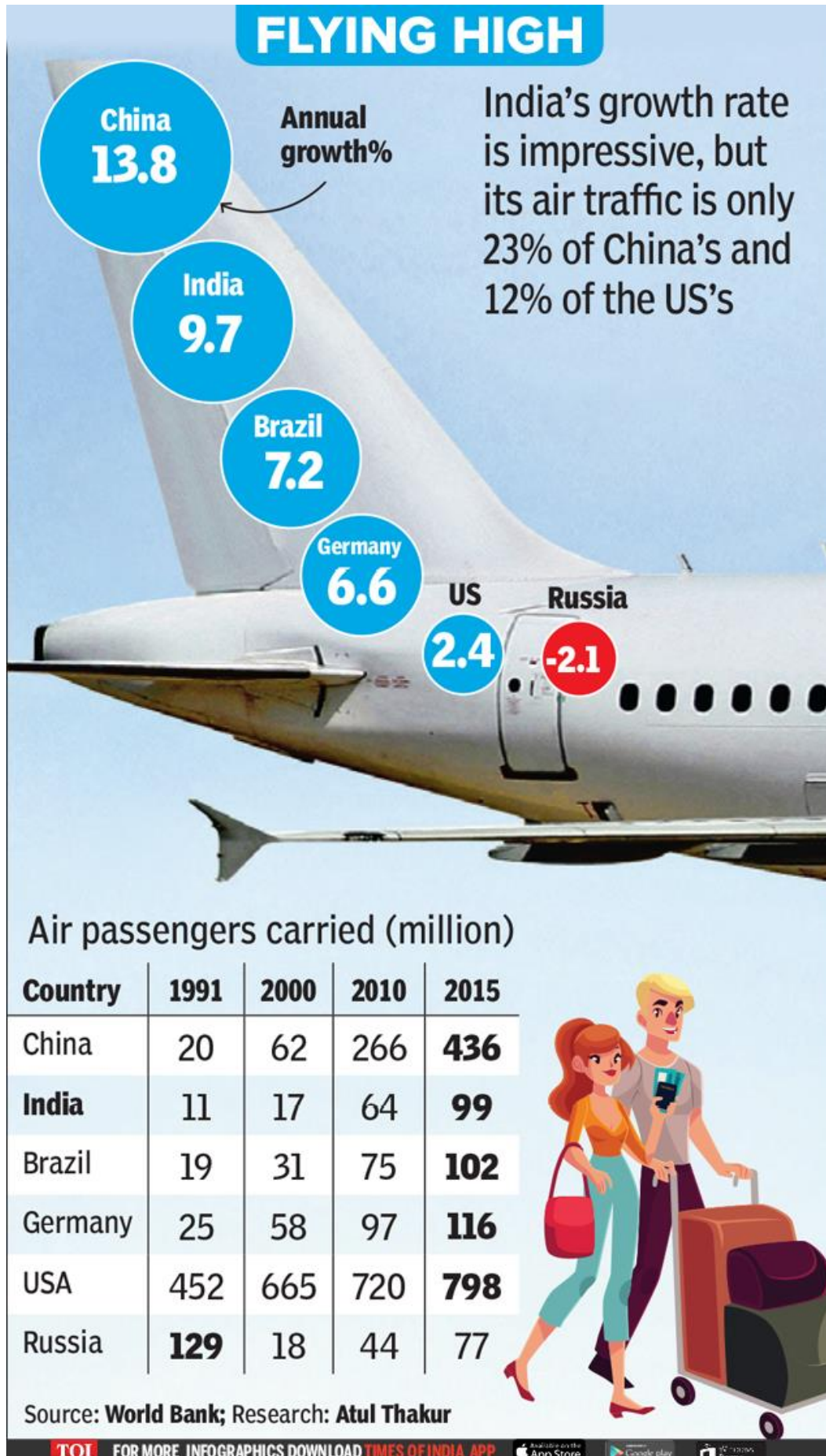
<https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/industry/article/covid-19-impact-will-the-indian-aviation-sector-be-reduced-to-2-3-players/630511>

Figures and Maps

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<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/indias-aviation-industry-is-flying-at-a-speed-second-only-to-chinas/articleshow/56681122.cms>



<https://www.deccanherald.com/business/business-news/what-ails-indian-aviation-industry-726285.html>

Video Links

Discussing the Troubles Faced by The Indian Aviation Sector:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPrqkRY9IXc>

In Depth - The Aviation Crisis:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sH2cLkwctfI>

In Depth - The Aviation Trouble:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gndx3FuYfqc>

Big Story | Aviation sector's viability in the wake of Coronavirus

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfLSzA-4Mtw>