

IAF's largest transport aircraft C-17 Globemaster makes historic landing in Arunachal Pradesh

What in news:

- The Indian Air Force's (IAF) largest transport aircraft – C-17 Globemaster -made a historic landing at Arunachal Pradesh's Tuting Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) near the Chinese border.

What is C-17 Globemaster?

- It is a US-manufactured aircraft named after two previous piston-engined military cargo aircraft, the Douglas C-74 Globemaster and the Douglas C-124 Globemaster II. It has delivered cargo in every worldwide operation since the 1990s.

What is it used for?

- strategic airlift missions
- transporting troops
- cargo throughout the world
- additional roles include medical evacuation
- Airdrop duties.
- They are operated in diverse terrain – from Himalayan air bases in North India at 13,000 ft. to Indian Ocean bases in South India.
- Maximum payload of the C-17 is 170,900 pounds (77,500 kg), and its maximum takeoff weight is 585,000 pounds (265,000 kg).

How does it look?

- The C-17 is 174 feet long and has a wingspan of about 170 feet (52 m).
- The size and weight of US mechanized firepower and equipment has grown in recent decades from increased air mobility requirements, particularly for large or heavy non-palletized outsize cargo. The operational history of C-17 with Indian Air Force

What are the other variants of C-17?

- There's C-17A which was the initial military airlift version.
- It was further upgraded with C-17A "ER" with extended range due to the addition of the center wing tank.

Expected prelims question:

Recently C-17 Globemaster was in news. It is related to

- a) Anti-missile tank
- b) Largest transport aircraft
- c) Guided missile technology
- d) None of above

Ans – b

Expected mains question:

Q) Describe about the features of C-17 Globemaster and add a note on its significance in India Defence System