G-20 Summit 2019 - Bilateral Meets

What is the issue?

- The annual G-20 summit for 2019 was recently held in Osaka, Japan.
- Here are the outcomes of the key bilateral meets held on the sidelines of the G-20 summit.

What were the U.S.-China trade negotiations on?

- U.S. President Donald Trump and China's leader Xi Jinping met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit.
- **Trade Talks -** It was announced that trade talks between the two countries resumed.

- Notably, the trade negotiations broke down some weeks ago.
- This was after the Chinese side said that it could not accept some provisions that had been tentatively agreed to in an incomplete draft.
- Mr. Trump now clarified that the U.S. would not impose any new tariffs on Chinese exports while the talks were underway.
- Meanwhile, China had agreed to resume broad purchases of American farm products and other goods.
- The new developments will delay the imposition of 25% tariffs on some $300 billion in Chinese imports.
- **Huawei issue** - Trump allowed U.S. companies to sell their equipment to Huawei, Chinese telecom giant.

- [Chinese technology giant Huawei's ambitious 5G rollout in the US was recently hampered by the Trump administration.
- It was accused that Huawei was doing espionage at China's behest.

- The U.S. thus blacklisted Huawei, prohibiting American companies from selling equipment to Huawei.
- It barred the use or installation of Huawei 5G technology-equipped devices in critical infrastructure and offices related to security establishment.
- The US has also been lobbying with friendly nations to boycott Huawei 5G rollout in those countries.
- Japan and Australia have already barred Huawei from rolling out 5G technology there.
- The move was a major blow to Huawei, which relies on chips and other

equipment from the United States.
- India has not yet committed to U.S.'s call for a ban on Huawei plan to rollout 5G in the country.
- India maintains that the decision would be taken considering its own business and security interests.]

What are the key takeaways of Modi-Trump meet?

- The U.S. President Donald Trump and Indian PM Modi met on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit.
- **Tariffs -** Modi and Trump directed officials to resolve trade issues that have cropped up in last one year. Click here to know more
- The dispute over tariffs began in 2018 when the U.S. hiked tariffs on import of aluminium and steel from many countries including India and the EU.
- This was followed by ending the General System of Preferences (GSP) for certain Indian items such as textiles and jewellery.
- In response, recently, India hiked tariffs on certain items imported from the US.
- The Indian response is likely to hurt farmers producing and exporting apples, almonds and lentils.
- Notably, Trump believes these farmers in US countryside are his supporters and core constituency.

- **Defence and S-400 -** India's S-400 and other defence deals with Russia have been an irritant for the Trump administration.
- Under its Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), the US imposed sanctions on countries purchasing arms from Russia.
- India has sought a waiver for its S-400 deal but the request is still pending with the Trump administration.
- The US president stressed that defence deals between the two countries should go forward, but he did not raise the issue of S-400 missile system.
- This signals that the U.S. administration is not ready to mix India-US bilateral ties with Russia.
- **Iran issue -** After Trump came to power, the U.S. withdrew from the multilateral nuclear agreement with Iran and imposed fresh sanctions on it too.
- The U.S. administration has been pushing the Indian government for stopping oil imports from Iran, which is a key supplier of crude oil to India.
- Moreover, India has strategic interests in Iran, where it has invested heavily in Chabahar port.
- In his meeting with Trump, Modi pressed for the need to maintain stability in the gulf region, given India's energy dependence and diaspora presence.

- Trump assured at the summit that the US was trying its best to ensure stability in the region, a major takeaway for India.

Source: Indian Express, India Today, New York Times

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