Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Support (RELOS)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international relations | Economy*

Why in News?

RELOS was approved by the Russian Parliament and signed by the President; it will take effect once Russia and India formally exchange the ratification documents.

- **RELOS –** A ***logistics-sharing pact*** between ***India and Russia*** allowing reciprocal access to military facilities for supplies, repairs, and refuelling.

Features

- **Scope of Agreement –** It governs the movement of military formations, warships, and aircraft between India and Russia as well as arrangements for providing reciprocal logistical support.
- **Air & Naval Provisions –** It will facilitate the mutual use of airspace by military aircraft, and has provisions related to port calls by warships of both countries.
- **Logistics Coverage –** It regulates the dispatch of troops and military equipment, and covers support services needed when forces operate on the other's territory.
- **Flexibility Clause –** The provisions can be extended to other scenarios with mutual consent.
- **Application –** It is applied during joint military exercises and training activities, as well as in situations involving humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

Strategic Benefits for India & Russia

- **Access to Bases –** India gains institutional access to Russian air and naval bases, from *Vladivostok (Pacific) and Murmansk (Arctic),* for refuelling, repairs, and maintenance.
- Boosting operational reach and readiness, especially for Russian-origin equipment.
- **Boost to Operational Reach –** It enhances India's readiness, especially for Russian-origin equipment.
- It supports India's broader Indo-Pacific strategy by leveraging Russia's extensive network, of provides access to over 40 Russian bases.
- **Reciprocal Benefits for Russia –** The Russian military gains access to Indian ports and airfields for refuelling, repairs, and operations.
- **Strategic Impact –** It deepens India–Russia defence partnership, institutionalises logistical support for Russian forces in the Indian Ocean, and bolsters Russia's position in a multipolar world.

Similar pacts with the US

- LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement),
- COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement), and
- BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement).

Reference

Indian Express | India-Russia logistics agreement

