US President's Visit to India

Why in News?

The United States of America's (USA) President Donald Trump visited India on February 24 and 25, 2020.

What were the MoUs signed?

- Only three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed: Two on health care, and one Letter of Cooperation.
- A MoU was signed on **mental health** between the health departments of the countries.
- Another MoU on the **safety of medical products** was signed between the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization with the US Food and Drug Administration.
- A Letter of Cooperation on **LNG pipeline infrastructure** was signed between Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Exxon Mobil India LNG Limited and Chart Industries Inc, US.

What was the agreement signed?

- An agreement has been signed for **defence purchases** worth $3-billion, including American helicopters.
- This agreement has led to both sides signalling more cooperation in defence, military exercises and technology sharing.

What could have been done?

- The visit's concrete outcomes were not dramatic or historical.
- The two leaders shared strong language in references aimed at China's hegemony in the South China Sea as well as the Belt and Road Initiative.
- But, they could have introduced the steps in the Indo-Pacific partnership including,
    1. Possible militarisation and
    2. Joint funding to counter the challenge from Chinese loans in the region.

What could be done?

- The two governments must now strive to complete the unfinished

agreements.

- They should set the course for their newly designated ‘Comprehensive Strategic Global Partnership’.
- More immediately, with the political backing of both leaders, negotiators must move towards the much anticipated yet elusive trade deal.

Source: The Hindu, The Economic Times.

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