

The Indian Express

Express Network

Austin: China is hardening its position along LAC (Page no. 5)

(GS Paper 3, Internal Security)

China has continued to harden its positions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India, US Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin expressed alarm over Beijing's border infrastructure build-up.

He also flagged China's "destabilising" military activity near Taiwan and its aggressive approach to the territories it claims in the South China Sea, saying this threatens to undermine the stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

Speaking at the Shangri La Dialogue — a security conference organised by the International Institute of Strategic Studies in Singapore, in which top Chinese leaders are also present — Austin stated: "We are seeing Beijing continue to harden its position along the border that it shares with India."

Indian and Chinese troops have been locked in a border standoff in eastern Ladakh since May 5, 2020, when a violent clash between the two sides erupted in the Pangong lake area.

China has also been building bridges and constructing other infrastructure such as roads and residential units in the border areas with India.

Economy

Hoping for more direct tax than expectation this fiscal; looking at crypto concern. (Page no. 15)

(GS Paper 3, Indian Economy)

Direct tax revenue trends are encouraging so far and the tax department is hoping to collect more than Budget estimates.

Taking note of the concerns raised for the wordings of the taxation law for virtual digital assets (VDAs), they are "looking at those concerns" and the intent of the soon-to-be-released guidelines is to explain the issue further.

In the last financial year, we collected Rs 14.09 lakh crore. The Budget expectation for this year is Rs 14.2 lakh crore as of now.

The trends until now are encouraging us to go in that way. As a whole, if you see, apart from this inflation and a couple of things that have happened, the trend seems to be going fine in the economy in April and May.

So, the trends are encouraging and we hope that we will be able to collect much more taxes than the last financial year.

The World

Indian Diplomat Amandeep Gill appointed as tech envoy by UN chief. (Page no 16)

(GS Paper 2, International Relation)

Amandeep Singh Gill of India has been appointed as United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' Envoy on Technology.

A thought leader on digital technology, Gill is the Chief Executive Officer of the International Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence Research Collaborative (I-DAIR) project, based at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, stated the UN Director general.

He brings to the position a deep knowledge of digital technologies coupled with a solid understanding of how to leverage the digital transformation responsibly and inclusively for progress on the sustainable development goals.