

29 Mar 2021: PIB Summary & Analysis

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1. India-US Strategic Energy Partnership

Context:

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the new US Secretary of Energy agreed to revamp the India-US Strategic Energy Partnership.

Details:

- The two leaders agreed to prioritise greater collaboration in cleaner energy sector biofuels, CCUS, hydrogen production and carbon sequestration through technology exchange, joint R&D through Partnership to Advance Clean Energy Research (PACE-R), among other initiatives.
- Both sides agreed to convene the third meeting of a revamped India-US Strategic Energy Partnership at an early date.

Also read: [India – US Relations](#)

2. Women-led startup develops product for low-cost internet in rural areas

Context:

A women-led startup 'Astrome' has developed deep-tech for reliable low-cost internet services to rural areas.

Details:

- Astrome has developed an innovative wireless product that gives fibre like bandwidth at a fraction of the cost of fibre to help telecom operators deliver reliable low-cost internet services to suburban and rural areas.
- The wireless product called **Giga Mesh** could enable telecom operators deploy quality, high-speed rural telecom infrastructure at 5 times lower cost.
- The deep tech startup was incubated at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, and supported by DST-ABI Woman Startup Program of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.
- The product has been granted a patent in India and the US.
- About the product:

- The multi-beam E-band product, Giga Mesh, packs 6 Point-to-Point E-band radios in one, thereby distributing the cost of the device over multiple links and hence reducing capital expenditure.
- The radio provides long-range and multi-Gbps data throughput at each link.
- Features like automatic link alignment, dynamic power allocation between links, and remote link formation help operators achieve significant operating expenditure cost reduction.

Background:

- Making available internet access to remote places in countries like India is difficult because laying fibre is too expensive.
- There is a need for wireless backhaul products that can deliver low cost, high data capacity, and wide reach.
- The currently available wireless backhaul products either do not provide sufficient data speeds or the required range or are very expensive to deploy.