



21 November 2023

National and International News

<p>Pakistan and China Navies to carry out joint sea patrol</p>	<p>Context China and Pakistan are conducting the third edition of the Sea Guardian-3 bilateral naval exercise in the northern Arabian Sea.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exercise comes just a day after the 2+2 Ministerial dialogue between India and the U.S. where maritime security in the Indo-Pacific was in focus and New Delhi announced its decision to become a full-member of the Bahrain-based U.S.-led multilateral grouping Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), of which Pakistan is also a member. • The exercise also comes days after Russia and Myanmar held their first naval exercise in the Andaman Sea. • China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy has deployed a Type-093 Song class diesel-electric submarine for the exercise.
<p>Wholesale prices remain in deflation zone in Oct</p>	<p>Context India's wholesale prices remained in deflationary mode for the seventh month in a row in October, with the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) reflecting an inflation of -0.52% from -0.26% in September.</p> <p>About WPI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It measures the changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses. • Published by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. • It is the most widely used inflation indicator in India. • Major criticism for this index is that the general public does not buy products at wholesale price. • The base year of All-India WPI has been revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2017.
<p>Rajnath to attend Defence Ministers' meet in Jakarta</p>	<p>Context Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will pay an official visit to Jakarta to attend the 10th Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) and will address the forum on regional and international security issues</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indonesia is hosting the meeting as the chair of ADMM-Plus. • The ADMM is the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN. • The ADMM-Plus is a platform for the ASEAN member-states, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar,



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the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, and its eight dialogue partners, India, the U.S., China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

- It is to **strengthen security and defence cooperation**.
- India became a dialogue partner of the ASEAN in 1992 and the inaugural ADMM-Plus was convened in Hanoi, Vietnam, on October 12, 2010.
- Since 2017, the ADMM-Plus Ministers have been meeting annually to bolster the cooperation among the ASEAN and the Plus countries.

Centre to invite bids for 20 critical mineral blocks

Context

The government will invite bids for 20 critical mineral blocks, including **lithium and graphite mines**.

Key points

- A national-level strategy on mining and processing of critical minerals will be made.
- Earlier, the Centre had approved royalty rates of **3% each for lithium and niobium** and **1% for Rare Earth Elements (REEs)**.
- Critical minerals have become important for the nation's economic development and national security.
- Lithium and REEs have gained significance, keeping in mind India's commitment to energy transition and achieving **net-zero emissions by 2070**.

Modi launches mission for most backward of the Scheduled Tribes



Context

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **₹24,000-crore PM-PVTG Development Mission** and a **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra** focused on government scheme saturation to the last mile in tribal districts.

Key points

- The scheme is meant to bring **11 key interventions** like the PM-Gram Sadak Yojana, PM-Gram Awaas Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, etc. by coordinated work of nine ministries to about 22,500 villages across 18 States and Union Territories.
- In addition to launching these schemes, the Prime Minister released the 15th instalment of the **PM-Kisan** payout to farmers, and dedicated a host of projects worth over ₹7,000 crore to the nation, including a campus of the IIM in Ranchi, and projects in the coal, railways, roads, petroleum and natural gas sectors in Jharkhand.



Kerala Regional News

<p>Kerala takes 3rd position in road accidents</p>	<p>Context: As per Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kerala is placed in third position in road accidents in the country. ● Kerala has moved up to the third position, surpassing Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka with 43,910 accidents in the state ● Tamil Nadu tops the list with 64,105 accidents, followed by Madhya Pradesh at the second position with 54,432 accidents
<p>Monkeys and mongoose gain protection as endangered species</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Animals such as monkeys and mongoose that are often deemed 'troublemakers' in human settlements are now protected under the Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act. ● They now come under the endangered species list and are forbidden from being hunted.
<p>Kerala Govt increases four welfare pensions</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Kerala government has decided to increase four welfare pensions to Rs 1600. ● The government has revised the welfare pension issued to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disabled athletes - Rs 1400 from Rs 1300 ○ Disabled artists - Rs 1400 from Rs 1,000 ○ Circus performers - Rs 1400 from Rs 1200 ○ Vishwakarma community - Rs 1400 from Rs 1400
<p>Give 50 per cent jobs to Keralites and get subsidy, draft policy woos IT firms</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outlining a way to ensure more jobs for Keralites, the state government's draft IT policy says investors will get subsidies if they provide 50% jobs to candidates from the state. ● Sops to bring more IT projects to rural Kerala also feature high on the Information Technology Policy 2023 that aims to transform Kerala into an inclusive knowledge society. ● The target is a 10% share of the country's IT market in the next five years.



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PM Modi praised Nimisha



Context:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Nimisha who won gold in the long jump with a 5.15-meter jump at the Para Asian Games in China
- Nimisha's golden achievement in the long jump is a source of pride and inspiration for the country.

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