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National and International News

China keen to extend Myanmar economic corridor to Sri Lanka



Context

- China is “prioritizing” the extension of the **China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC)** to Sri Lanka
- China is looking to scale up the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project in South Asia.

Key points

- The CMEC is the **newest of the six land corridors** under the BRI and has assumed prominence in place of the **Bangladesh-China-India Myanmar (BCIM) corridor** which has largely been stalled.
- **India and Bhutan** are the only countries in South Asia that have **stayed out of the BRI** and China’s more recent Global Development Initiative.

Far-right populist Javier Milei wins presidential run-off in Argentina



Context

Controversial economist **Javier Milei** has won **Argentina’s presidential elections** in Argentina, a country that’s grappling with the worst economic crisis in a generation.

Key points

- He is an **anarcho-capitalist**.
- He has proposed to **abandon the national currency and adopt the U.S. dollar**, similar to what El Salvador and Ecuador have done in Latin America, although those were smaller countries and Argentina is the third-largest economy in the region.

Energy burst in distant galaxy disturbed ionosphere

Context

- About two billion years ago in a galaxy far beyond our Milky Way, a big star met its demise in a massive explosion called a **supernova** that unleashed a huge burst of gamma rays, which pack the most energy of any wave in the electromagnetic spectrum.
- Those waves traversed the cosmos and finally reached the earth last year. This **gamma-ray burst**, according to researchers, caused a significant disturbance in the earth’s ionosphere, a layer of the planet’s upper



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atmosphere that contains electrically charged gases called **plasma**.

About Ionosphere

- The ionosphere is situated about **50-950 km above the earth's surface**, stretching to the very edge of space.
- It helps form the boundary between the **vacuum of space and the lower atmosphere** inhabited by people.
- The ionosphere, which **helps protect life on the earth** by absorbing harmful ultraviolet rays from the sun, is sensitive to changing magnetic and electrical conditions in space, usually connected to solar activity.

Israel lists Lashkar-e-Taiba as a terrorist organisation



Context

- **Israel** listed the **Pakistan-based militant organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba** as a terror outfit.
- The move is in sync with Israel's attempts to support a global war on terror.

Key points

- Lashkar-e-Taiba is a **deadly and reprehensible terror organization**, responsible for the murder of hundreds of Indian civilians as well as others.
- Its heinous actions on **November 26, 2008**, still reverberate in force through all peace-seeking nations and societies

The OECD report on climate finance

Context

- A new report, published by the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**, showed that economically developed countries fell short of their promise to jointly **mobilize \$100 billion** a year towards climate mitigation and adaptation needs of developing countries in 2021 — one year past the 2020 deadline.
- The report said that developed countries **mobilized \$89.6 billion** in 2021 and that



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finances for adaptation fell by 14% in 2021 compared to 2020.

Key points

- The OECD report showed that of the **\$73.1 billion mobilized in 2021** by the public sector via bilateral and multilateral channels, \$49.6 billion was provided as loans.
- The OECD report added that by 2025, developing countries are estimated to require around **\$1 trillion a year** in climate investments, rising to roughly **\$2.4 trillion each year** between 2026 and 2030.

Did you know?

The OECD is largely a group of rich countries including the U.S., the U.K., Germany, France, Switzerland, Canada, and others.

SATHEE portal



Context

With the Joint Entrance Examination for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) and other engineering colleges only a few days away, the Education Ministry asked all States to encourage aspirants to utilize the newly launched portal — **SATHEE (Self Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams)** — for exam preparation.

About

- SATHEE is an **open learning platform** available to students for free.
- The online coaching platform has been launched by the **Education Ministry and the IIT-Kanpur**.
- The portal uses artificial intelligence (AI) to interact with students and can be customized to each student's pace of learning.
- **SATHEE's integrated AI chatbot** helps students align their learning needs
- SATHEE **hosts lectures and video content** prepared by Professors and students of the IITs, and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).
- Currently, digital learning material is available on the portal in **English, Hindi, Odisha, and Telugu**.

Blue Dart, India Post offers parcel lockers at post offices

Context

Express logistics provider **Blue Dart** has set up a



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digital parcel locker service at post offices under a partnership with **India Post**

Key points

- The service **allows consignees to retrieve their shipments** from digital parcel lockers, doing away with the need for personal receipts or signing for a package
- When the recipient needs to retrieve a package from the locker, they can simply enter the assigned code and open the locker.

Kerala Regional News

Lifetime Achievement Award to Krzysztof Zanussi

Context:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award will be given to Krzysztof Zanussi**
- Krzysztof Zanussi is a Polish director, producer, and screenwriter
- He will be presented the Lifetime Achievement award at the **28th edition of the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK)**
- The award consists of a **cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, a statuette, and a citation.**
- **Zanussi's films Perfect Number, The Illumination, The Contract, The Spiral, Foreign Body, and A Year of the Quiet Sun** will be screened at the festival

Person in News: Fathima Beevi

Context:

- SC's **first woman chief justice Fathima Beevi** passes away
- She was also the first woman judge of the Supreme Court
- She was the first law student and governor and was also the **first Munsif** to be appointed through PSC examination in 1958.
- She was the **first Muslim woman** in India to have been appointed as a judicial officer.

Maoist presence in Wayanad

Context:

- Police authorities have ramped up their vigilance efforts in Thalapuzha Kambamala near Mananthavadi in Wayanad due to the frequent presence of Maoists in the area.



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- They have initiated **three-level patrolling including drone surveillance at the border** along with heightened vehicle inspections.

About Maoists:

- **Maoists, also known as Naxalites**, are a group of **communist insurgents** in India who **follow the ideology of Mao Zedong**.
- They are active in rural areas of central and eastern India, and they have been fighting a protracted insurgency against the Indian government since the 1960s.

Vizhinjam International Seaport development may harm sensitive coastal and marine ecosystems

Context:

- The **Janakeeya Padana Samithi (JPS)** released a report stating that the Vizhinjam International Seaport development has the potential to harm the sensitive coastal and marine ecosystem, affecting marine biodiversity, and the livelihoods and cultural spaces of marginalized fisherfolk.
- It demanded the government to take appropriate steps to minimize the adverse impact of the port and ensure transparency.

Key Points:

- JPS is **constituted by the coastal protesters** to assess the impact of Vizhinjam International Seaport in Thiruvananthapuram (VIST)
- It was prepared **under the chairmanship of K V Thomas**, former scientist of the National Centre for Earth Science Studies.

The Kerala Vayomadhuram Scheme

Context:

- The Kerala Vayomadhuram Scheme is a welfare initiative introduced by the **Social Justice Department of the Government of Kerala** to provide **free glucometers** to elderly diabetic individuals from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Recognizing the high prevalence of diabetes among the state's older population, the scheme aims to **facilitate self-monitoring of blood glucose levels** and promote effective diabetes management



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Eligibility Criteria:

- Age: 60 years or above
- Residency: Resident of Kerala
- Economic Status: Below Poverty Line (BPL)
- Medical Condition: Diagnosed with diabetes
- Benefits:
- Free provision of glucometers
- Enhanced diabetes management
- **Improved health outcomes**

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