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22 November 2023

International & National News

<p>PM to open summit on Global South</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Minister to inaugurate the second Voice of Global South Summit. • The summit will be arranged into 10 sessions with the inaugural and concluding sessions meant for the heads of states and governments. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event: Inauguration of the second Voice of Global South Summit by the Prime Minister. • Structure: The summit will have 10 sessions, including inaugural and concluding sessions for heads of states and governments. • Global South: Refers to countries mainly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, often labeled as developing or underdeveloped. • Characteristics of Global South: These nations generally face higher levels of poverty, income inequality, and challenging living conditions. • Global North: Comprises wealthier nations, primarily located in North America and Europe, along with some in Oceania and other regions.
<p>PM Modi unveils DAKSHIN at Global South Summit</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM Modi launched a global centre of excellence (DAKSHIN) dedicated to nations of the Global South at the inaugural session of the Second Voice of Global South Summit. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background: The DAKSHIN initiative follows PM Modi's proposal at the first summit in January, showing India's commitment to the Global South. <p>India's Pledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement of launching a satellite for weather and climate monitoring, as committed during the G20 Summit. • Emphasis on India's responsible use of technology, particularly in artificial intelligence; Announcement of AI Global Partnership Summit next month. <p>Do you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 200 G20 meetings in India focused on Global South concerns and inclusion of Global South topics in the New Delhi Leaders Declaration. • India played a crucial role in securing permanent G20 membership for the African Union.



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Proposed criminal code gives more immunity to defence personnel



Context

The **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) Bill, 2023**, expected to replace the **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)**, provides further immunity to armed forces personnel.

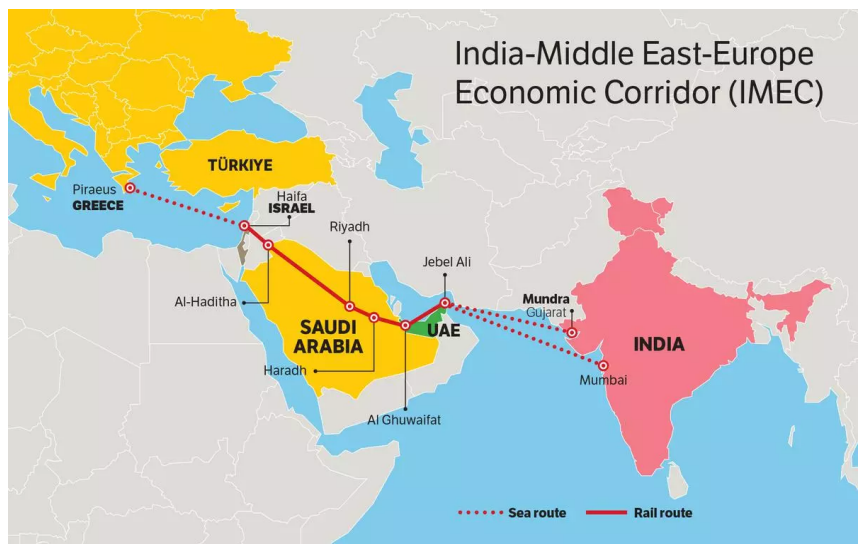
Key points

- **Purpose:** The BNSS Bill, 2023, is intended to replace the existing Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).
- **Immunity to Armed Forces:** It provides additional immunity to armed forces personnel.
- **Sanction for Legal Action:** The bill stipulates that no case can be registered against armed forces personnel without the sanction of the Union or State government for acts performed in the line of duty.
- **Relation to AFSPA:** This provision is in addition to the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), which already grants significant powers to armed forces in disturbed areas.
- **AFSPA Powers:** Under AFSPA, armed forces have the authority to arrest or kill individuals contravening the law, conduct warrantless searches, and are protected from prosecution and legal suits without the Central government's sanction.
- **AFSPA Application:** Currently, AFSPA is applicable in parts of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and the entirety of Jammu and Kashmir.

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) Project

Key points:

- **Components:** The IMEC will include Railroad, Ship-to-Rail networks, and Road transport routes.



Corridors:

- The East Corridor: Connecting India to the Arabian Gulf.
- The Northern Corridor: Connecting the Gulf to Europe.



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	<p>Additional Infrastructure: The corridor will also encompass an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline, and a high-speed data cable.</p> <p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a comprehensive transportation network combining rail, road, and sea routes. • To connect India, the Middle East, and Europe. • To enhance transportation efficiency and reduce costs. • To increase economic unity and generate employment. • To reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. <p>Expected Impact: The IMEC is anticipated to transform the integration of Asia, Europe, and the Middle East by bolstering trade and connectivity.</p>
<p>Greenhouse gases hit a record high in 2022</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Nations warned that Greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere hit new record highs in 2022, with no end in sight to the rising trend • The UN's World Meteorological Organization said levels of the three main greenhouse gases — the climate-warming carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide — all broke records last year. <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2015 Paris Agreement saw countries agree to cap global warming at “well below” 2° C above average levels measured between 1850 and 1900 — and 1.5° C if possible. • The global mean temperature in 2022 was 1.15° C above the 1850-1900 average.
<p>NASA, ISRO prepare to launch joint space mission</p>	<p>Context</p> <p>The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) is set to be launched in the first quarter of 2024 after a few tests, particularly those related to vibration.</p> <p>About NISAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO. • It is an SUV-size satellite weighing 2,800 kilograms. • It consists of both L-band and S-band synthetic aperture radar (SAR) instruments, which makes it a dual-frequency imaging radar satellite. • NISAR will be the first satellite mission to use two different radar frequencies (L-band and S-band) to measure changes in our planet's surface. • SAR is capable of penetrating clouds and can collect data day and night regardless of the weather conditions.



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- NASA has provided the L-band radar, GPS, a high-capacity solid-state recorder to store data, and a payload data subsystem. ISRO has provided the S-band radar, the GSLV launch system, and spacecraft.
- It also consists of a large 39-foot stationary **antenna reflector** made of a gold-plated wire mesh which will be used to focus “the radar signals emitted and received by the upward-facing feed on the instrument structure.
- It will **measure Earth’s changing ecosystems**, dynamic surfaces, and ice masses, providing information about biomass, natural hazards, sea level rise, and groundwater.
- NISAR will **observe Earth’s land and ice-covered surfaces** globally with 12-day regularity on ascending and descending passes.

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