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### International & National 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 South Asian countries 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. However, 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 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**



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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



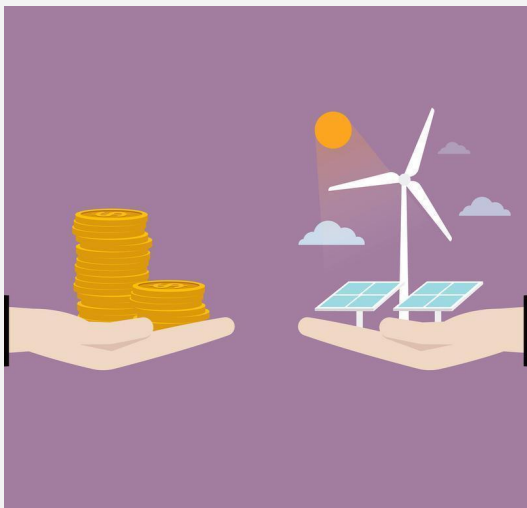
#### Context

- 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 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.



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### 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 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.

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