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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 atmosphere that contains electrically charged gasses 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



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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 **Pakistan-based militant organization 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.

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 few days away, Education Ministry asked all States to encourage aspirants to utilise 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.



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- 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 offer 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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