

NEWS TODAY

5TH NSA LEVEL MEETING OF THE COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE (CSC) HELD

- CSC, renamed version of **National Security Advisor (NSA) Level Trilateral on Maritime Security** (formed in 2011), helps member nations **to build capacity on common security threats**.
 - **Founding members are Maldives, India and Sri Lanka**. Mauritius is added as the newest member in the recently concluded meeting.
 - Bangladesh and Seychelles have **observer status**.
- 5th meeting also identified following **five broad areas of cooperation to strengthen regional security**:
 - **Maritime safety and security**,
 - **Countering terrorism and radicalisation**,
 - **Combating trafficking and transnational organised crime**,
 - **Cyber security**, protection of critical infrastructure and technology, and
 - **Humanitarian assistance** and disaster relief
- The roadmap will facilitate robust mechanisms for **coordinated responses, capacity building and strengthening information flow** between member states.
- CSC is **seen as other step by India to enhance its maritime security**.
 - Maritime security **broadly classifies issues in maritime domain** comprising national security, marine environment, economic development, and human security.
 - Besides world's oceans, it also deals with **regional seas, territorial waters, rivers and ports**.



Other Steps taken to improve maritime security

- **SAGAR (Security & Growth for All in the Region) policy** to deepen economic and security cooperation with its maritime neighbours and assist in building their maritime security capabilities.
- **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)** to enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region and helps to preserve peaceful relations between nations.
- **India's Neighbourhood First policy** focuses on creating mutually beneficial, people-oriented, regional frameworks for stability and prosperity.

READY TO HOLD ONE NATION ONE ELECTION: CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER (CEC)

- Simultaneous elections(SE) idea was **proposed by EC in 1983**. It was also referred by Law Commission and NITI Aayog.
 - Under SE, **Lok Sabha and State Assemblies elections will be synchronized together** such that voters in a particular constituency vote for both on the same day.
- **SE were the norm until 1967**. But following dissolution of some Legislative Assemblies in 1968 and 1969 and that of Lok Sabha in 1970, elections to State Assemblies and Parliament have been held separately.

| Arguments in favour | Arguments against |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy paralysis as frequent elections lead to imposition of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) over prolonged periods of time. • Huge expenditures by various stakeholders like political parties, individual candidates, etc. • Engagement of security forces takes away a portion of such armed police forces from other internal security purposes. • Disruption of normal public life and impact on functioning of essential services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational feasibility such as how to synchronize cycle for the first time. • Holding SE will require certain requirements such as: Curtailment and extension of terms of the House of the People/ State Legislative Assemblies, Amendment to the relevant provisions of the Constitution (Article 83, 84, 172, 174 etc) etc. • National and state issues are different, and holding simultaneous elections may affect the judgment of voters. |



CHANDRAYAAN-2 MAKES FIRST OBSERVATIONS OF DISTRIBUTION OF ARGON-40 IN MOON'S ATMOSPHERE

- **Chandra's Atmospheric Composition Explorer-2 (CHACE-2)**, a mass spectrometer onboard Chandrayaan-2 mission, has made the **first-of-its-kind observations of the global distribution of Argon-40 in the lunar exosphere**.
 - Earlier, **NASA's Apollo-17** had detected presence of **Ar-40** in the lunar exosphere **confined only to near-equatorial region of Moon**.
 - Exosphere is **outermost region of upper atmosphere** where the constituent atoms and molecules rarely collide with each other and can escape into space.
- **Significance** - observations provide details on the spatial variations in Ar-40 through the lunar day **covering the equatorial and mid latitude regions of the Moon**.
 - Observations are also indicative of **unknown or additional loss processes, Moon quakes or regions with lower activation energies**.
- **Chandrayaan-2 mission**
 - It is an **Indian lunar mission to explore the uncharted south pole** of Moon by landing a rover. Its **lander is 'Vikram' and rover is 'Pragyan'**.
 - Launched by **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk-III** in 2019.
 - Though mission spacecraft **failed its soft landing on the Moon's surface**, its Orbiter continues to successfully collect insights about the Moon.
- **Chandrayaan-1** was the **first lunar space probe of ISRO** and found **water on the Moon**.
 - It mapped Moon in **infrared, visible, and X-ray light** from lunar orbit and used reflected radiation to prospect for various elements, minerals, and ice.

Argon

- It is an **inert, colorless and odorless element, and a noble gas**.
- Argon-40 is **isotope of Argon that originates from the radioactive disintegration of Potassium-40 (K-40) present below the lunar surface**.

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES LAUNCHES MSME INNOVATIVE SCHEME (INCUBATION, DESIGN AND IPR)

- The scheme is a holistic approach that **combines innovation in incubation, design intervention and protect IPR** to create awareness amongst MSMEs about India's innovation and motivate them to become MSME Champions.
 - **CHAMPIONS (Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength)** is basically for making the smaller units big by helping and handholding, in particular, by solving their problems and grievances.
- **Details of MSME Innovative Scheme**

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| Incubation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Objective: To promote and support untapped creativity and to promote adoption of latest technologies in MSMEs. ● Financial assistance: Up to Rs. 15 lakh per idea and up to Rs. 1.00 crore for relevant plant and machines. |
| Design | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aim: To provide expert advice and cost-effective solution on real time design problems for new product development, its continuous improvement and value addition. ● Financial assistance: Up to Rs. 40 lakh for design project and up to Rs. 2.5 lakh for student project. |
| IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Objective: To improve the IP culture in India with a view to enhance the awareness of IPRs amongst the MSMEs. ● Also aims to take suitable measures for the protection of ideas, technological innovation and knowledge-driven business strategies developed by MSMEs. ● Financial assistance will be provided for Foreign Patent, Domestic Patent, GI Registration etc. |

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (ASI) WRITES TO ODISHA GOVERNMENT, WARNS OF THREATS OF PURI HERITAGE CORRIDOR PROJECT (PHCP)

- As per the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act**, **any new construction within 100 meters of a temple is prohibited**.
 - But for PHCP, **National Monument Authority (NMA) reportedly issued a No Objection Certificate** to the state government for some construction work within the prohibited zone.
 - **NMA, under Ministry of Culture**, has been set up under AMASR provisions for considering grant of permissions for construction related activity in prohibited and regulated area.
- PHCP was unveiled in December 2019 **to transform the holy town of Puri into an international place of heritage**.
- **About Puri Jagannath Temple**
 - It was **constructed by Ganga Dynasty king Ananta Varman Chodaganga Deva** dating back to 12th century at the seashore Puri.
 - **Lord Jagannath, Devi Subhadra and elder brother Balabhadra** (the holy trinity) are being worshipped in Puri.
 - It is **designated as one of the Char Dhams** (Dwarika, Badrinath & Rameswaram are other three) for pilgrimages in India.
 - **Various festivals of Sri Jagannath** observed during the year are Snana Yatra, Netrotsava, Ratha Yatra (car festival), Sayan Ekadasi, Chitalagi Amabasya, Srikrushna Janma, Dussehra etc.

Architectural features

- Main temple is constructed in **Kalinga architecture**, in such a way that **no shadow of the temple falls on the ground at any time of the day**.
- **Idols of the holy trinity are carved out of wood** rather than stone or metal idols.
- Unlike other temples of the region, the carvings on the temples are **predominantly of gods and goddesses**.



BIS ASKS SOY PRODUCT MAKERS TO GET QUALITY CERTIFICATION, USE INDIAN STANDARDS INSTITUTION (ISI) MARK

- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) organised a webinar on '**Indian standards on soy products**' to create awareness about soy products.
 - The use of soya bean is getting increased acceptance in the form of **textured vegetable protein (popularly known as soy badi or soy nuggets), Soy milk, Tofu, soy dahi**, etc.
 - To maintain the quality and safety of these products, BIS has published **seven Indian standards for soy products like fat soy flour, soy milk, soy nuts, soy butter** etc.
- Certification will **aid in integrating soy products into the Indian diet**.
 - It will also **benefit the producer by commanding better prices**.
- The ISI mark is a **standards-compliance mark for industrial products** in India since 1955.
 - It certifies that a product conforms to an Indian standard (IS) developed by BIS.

- **BIS is the National Standard Body of India established under the BIS Act 2016** for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
 - **BIS Certification** enables the certificate holder to **offer third party guarantee of quality, safety and reliability of products to the customers** and is mainly required for import of items.
 - While **product certification is otherwise voluntary**, there is, however, a list of items which for reasons of public health, safety or mass nature of consumption are **mandatorily certified by BIS**.
 - It is **headquartered in New Delhi** and has 5 regional offices.

ALSO IN NEWS



Loan Guarantee Scheme for Covid Affected Sectors (LGSCAS)

- Government decided to extend the credit guarantee scheme for building healthcare and medical infrastructure by three months to June 2022.
- **LGSCAS aimed at upscaling the medical infrastructure in the country**, specifically targeting underserved areas.
 - It provides a **guarantee of 50 percent for brownfield projects and 75 percent to greenfield projects** for loans sanctioned up to Rs.100 crore to **set up facilities at urban or rural locations**.
 - For aspirational districts, guarantee covers for both brownfield expansion and greenfield projects shall be 75%.
 - It **partially mitigates credit risk** (primarily construction risk) and **facilitate bank credit at lower rates of interest**.
 - Loans **guarantee is up to three years**, and interest rate under the scheme is **capped at 7.95 percent**.
 - Announced by **Ministry of Finance**.



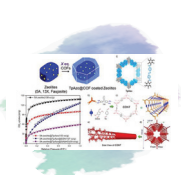
NITI Aayog and KidEx collaborate to promote innovation

- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) collaborated with KidEx Venture Private Limited to **leverage KidEx's existing technology platform "IKIGAI"** to host AIM's flagship programs "Tinkerpreneur" and "ATL Marathon".
 - The programs will be **available to 1 Crore+ school students** on the AIM network across India.
- ATL Tinkerpreneur aims at 'enabling students to **tinker from the comfort of their homes and become an entrepreneur**'.
- ATL Marathon is **Atal Innovation Mission's flagship innovation challenge**, where schools identify community problems of their choice and develop innovative solutions in the form of working prototypes.



Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs)

- An initiative of **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)**.
- Objective is to have **dedicated infrastructure in each district of the country to impart training and skill upgradation of rural youth** geared towards entrepreneurship development.
- They are **managed by banks with active co-operation from the Government of India and State Governments**.
- Government of India provides **one - time grant assistance, upto a maximum of Rs. 1 crore for this**.
- After successful completion of the training, **credit linkage assistance is provided by the banks** to start entrepreneurial ventures.



Novel strategy to synthesize adsorbents for Carbon capture and utilization (CCU)

- Indian Scientists have **discovered special types of nanoparticles** or microparticles for CCU.
 - CCU is a growing field of research focusing on reducing CO2 emissions.
- Novel materials that have been synthesized **include porous Covalent organic frameworks (COFs)** like COF-graphene Janus thin films.
 - COFs have attracted attention for their interesting properties, including **high-order porosity, structural versatility, facile surface modification, and high thermal and chemical stabilities**.
 - **Potential applications of COFs:** Gas separation and storage, chemical sensing, luminescence, electronic devices, drug delivery, energy storage and conversion etc.

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|  <p>Away From Reactor (AFR) facility</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kudankulam Village Panchayat has passed a resolution against setting up AFR facility at Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP). • AFR facilities can be defined as a storage system functionally independent of the reactor operation providing the role of storage of spent fuel until a further destination becomes available. • Need for AFR: to tackle increase in the nuclear capacity factor and reactor life, decommissioning of more reactors etc. |
|  <p>Epidemic, Pandemic and Endemic</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per definition of US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Epidemic is when there is sudden increase in the number of cases of a disease above what is normally expected in that population in a specific geographical area. For eg. Covid-19 was an epidemic in China before it became a pandemic. > Pandemic is when an epidemic of an infectious disease spreads over several countries or continents it becomes Pandemic. For Instance, COVID 19. > Endemic is when a disease shows a constant presence within a certain geographic area. For instance, Malaria is considered endemic in certain countries. |
|   <p>Personalities in News</p> | <p>Sucheta Kripalani (1908-1974)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She was India's first woman Chief Minister (of Uttar Pradesh). • She was married to freedom fighter Acharya Kripalani. • Values: Committed to the Gandhian ideology, patriotism, Independence, fearless in mind and spirit. • Significant contribution/achievements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Founded the women's wing of the Congress in 1940. > Actively participated in independence movement in the 1940s (including Quit India movement). > Was elected to the Constituent Assembly. > In 1949, she was a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly and led the Indian delegation to the International Labour Organisation in 1961. > She authored Sucheta: An Unfinished Autobiography. <p>Durgawati Devi (1907-1999)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also known as 'The Agni of India'. • She had tremendous influence on revolutionaries such as Bhagat Singh, Ashafaquallah and Chandra Shekhar Azad, and on members of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA). • She was an active member of Naujawan Bharat Sabha, and assisted in the escape of Bhagat Singh from Lahore after the Saunders killing (1928). • She established a school for poor children in Lucknow in 1935. • For her anti-British campaigning, she was arrested and imprisoned for three years. • Personal values: Patriotism, bravery. |



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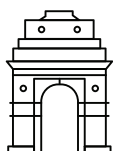
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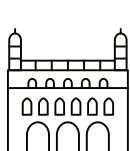
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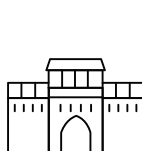
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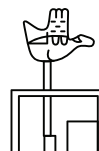
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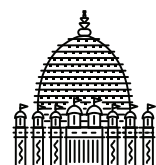
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