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International & National News


<p>Pakistan and China Navies to carry out Joint Sea Patrol</p>	<p>Context China and Pakistan are conducting the third edition of the Sea Guardian-3 bilateral naval exercise in the northern Arabian Sea.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exercise comes just a day after the 2+2 Ministerial dialogue between India and the U.S. where maritime security in the Indo-Pacific was in focus and New Delhi announced its decision to become a full member of the Bahrain-based U.S.-led multilateral grouping Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), of which Pakistan is also a member. • The exercise also comes days after Russia and Myanmar held their first naval exercise in the Andaman Sea. • China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy has deployed a Type-093 Song class diesel-electric submarine for the exercise.
<p>Wholesale prices remain in deflation zone in Oct</p>	<p>Context India's wholesale prices remained in deflationary mode for the seventh month in a row in October, with the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) reflecting an inflation of -0.52% from -0.26% in September.</p> <p>About WPI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It measures the changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses. • Published by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. • It is the most widely used inflation indicator in India. • Major criticism of this index is that the general public does not buy products at wholesale price. • The base year of All-India WPI has been revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2017.
<p>Rajnath to attend Defence Ministers' Meet in Jakarta</p>	<p>Context Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will pay an official visit to Jakarta to attend the 10th Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) and will address the forum on regional and international security issues</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indonesia is hosting the meeting as the chair of ADMM-Plus. • The ADMM is the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN. • The ADMM-Plus is a platform for the ASEAN member-states, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, and its eight dialogue partners, India, the U.S., China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is to strengthen security and defence cooperation. • India became a dialogue partner of the ASEAN in 1992 and the inaugural ADMM-Plus was convened in Hanoi, Vietnam, on October 12, 2010. • Since 2017, the ADMM-Plus Ministers have been meeting annually to bolster the cooperation among the ASEAN and the Plus countries.
<p>Centre to invite bids for 20 critical mineral blocks</p>	<p>Context The government will invite bids for 20 critical mineral blocks, including lithium and graphite mines.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national-level strategy on mining and processing of critical minerals will be made. • Earlier, the Centre had approved royalty rates of 3% each for lithium and niobium and 1% for Rare Earth Elements (REEs). • Critical minerals have become important for the nation's economic development and national security. • Lithium and REEs have gained significance, keeping in mind India's commitment to energy transition and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.
<p>Modi launches mission for most backward of the Scheduled Tribes</p> 	<p>Context Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ₹24,000-crore PM-PVTG Development Mission and a Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra focused on government scheme saturation to the last mile in tribal districts.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme is meant to bring 11 key interventions like the PM-Gram Sadak Yojana, PM-Gram Awaas Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, etc. by coordinated work of nine ministries to about 22,500 villages across 18 States and Union Territories. • In addition to launching these schemes, the Prime Minister released the 15th installment of the PM-Kisan payout to farmers, and dedicated a host of projects worth over ₹7,000 crore to the nation, including a campus of the IIM in Ranchi, and projects in the coal, railways, roads, petroleum and natural gas sectors in Jharkhand.

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