

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Australia, the U.K. and the U.S. (AUKUS) have announced they're forming a new security alliance that will help equip Australia with nuclear powered submarines. The alliance will see a reshaping of relations in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

China hit out at the new partnership announced by Australia, the U.K. and the U.S., saying it would "undermine" regional peace and "intensify" an arms race. Beijing particularly slammed the announcement of provision of nuclear powered submarines to Australia under the military pact, which has been seen by many observers as being aimed, at least in part, to respond to China's growing military footprint in the region.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has a packed agenda when it convenes today, with well over a dozen weighty issues for its consideration, including the extension of tax relief granted for COVID19 related essentials and initiating talks on bringing petroleum products under the GST regime. The council, which will hold its first physical meeting since the onset of the pandemic, is also likely to consider levying GST on food delivery apps and take up a proposed rejig of tax rates on items such as footwear and textiles that has been kept on hold for over a year. The demand of some States, including the host State Uttar Pradesh, to introduce a new tax system for industries such as brick kilns, gutkha and paan masala, and sand mining, based on production capacity instead of actual output, may also be taken up at least for one or two of these sectors. Instances of tax evasion in these sectors have been quite rampant.

Paving the way for a major cleanup of bad loans in the banking system, the Cabinet on Wednesday cleared a ₹30,600 crore guarantee programme for securities to be issued by the newly incorporated 'bad bank' for taking over and resolving nonperforming assets (NPAs) amounting to ₹2 lakh crore. The Reserve Bank of India is in the process of granting a licence for the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL), following which toxic assets worth ₹90,000 crore that

## PALLANDARI

1. Hundreds of protesters recently took to streets of the Pallandari region in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) demanding independence from Pakistani clutches. What's the issue? **Accusing Islamabad of giving second-class citizen treatment to them for the past seven decades, the protestors said that their rights were trampled upon.** Additionally, the country's administration is also accused of exploiting the citizens politically and economically.

2. Present position of PoK: PoK is called "Azad Jammu & Kashmir" ("AJK" in short). It came into being after the 1949 ceasefire between India and Pakistan. It comprises the parts of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir that were occupied by the Pakistani forces. Pakistan's constitutional position on PoK is that it is not a part of the country, but the "liberated" part of Kashmir. However, Article 257 of Pakistan's Constitution says: "When the people of the State of Jammu and Kashmir decide to accede to Pakistan, the relationship between Pakistan and the State shall be determined in accordance with the wishes of the people of that State."

3. India's stand on PoK: **The fact that PoK is an integral part of India has been our consistent policy ever since 1947. India has also made clear to the world that any issue related to PoK is the internal matter of India.** Please note that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) is part of the newly created Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, while Gilgit-Baltistan is in the UT of Ladakh in the fresh maps released by the government.

## GAGANYAAN

1. Australia will support India's 'Gaganyaan' mission by tracking it through Cocos Keeling island. Significance: There are blind spots due to which there is a possibility of not receiving signals, sources said. The data relay satellite tracking from Cocos Keeling island is expected to help address the issue. Need for: Satellites in orbit cannot pass along their information to the ground stations on Earth if it does not have a clear view of the ground station. A data relay satellite serves as a way to pass along the satellite's information.

2. When was it announced? Formal announcement of the Gaganyaan programme was made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day address on August 15, 2018. The initial target was to launch the human spaceflight before the 75th anniversary of India's independence on August 15, 2022.

3. Objectives: **The objective of the Gaganyaan programme is to demonstrate the capability to send humans to low earth orbit on board an Indian launch vehicle and bring them back to earth safely.**

4. Relevance of a Manned Space Mission for India-Boost to industries-The Indian industry will find large opportunities through participation in the highly demanding Space missions. Gaganyaan Mission is expected to source nearly 60% of its equipment from the Indian private sector. **Employment:** According to the ISRO chief, the Gaganyaan mission would create 15,000 new employment opportunities, 13,000 of them in private industry and the space organisation would need an additional manpower of 900. Spurs research and development: It will thrust significant research in areas such as materials processing, astro-biology, resources mining, planetary chemistry, planetary orbital calculus and many other areas.

5. **Motivation:** Human space flight will provide that inspiration to the youth and also the national public mainstream. It would inspire the young generation into notable achievements and enable them to play their legitimate role in challenging future activities. **Prestige:** India could potentially become the fourth country to launch a human space mission. The Gaganyaan will not only bring about prestige to the nation but also establish India's role as a key player in the space industry.

## EXERCISE PEACEFUL MISSION

1. Joint Counter Terrorism Exercise PEACEFUL MISSION is a

**banks have already fully provided for will move to the NARCL.**

**Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said his Ministry has been working on 15 projects worth ₹53,000 crore to reduce traffic congestion and pollution in Delhi. He was speaking at a function at Lohtaki village here as part of his twoday site visit and inspection of the 1,380 km long under construction DelhiMumbai Expressway across different States.**

**China cited a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution issued after the 1998 nuclear tests to question India's missile programme amid reports of an upcoming test for the AgniV intercontinental ballistic missile. "As for whether India can develop ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons, the UNSCR 1172 already has clear stipulations," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on in response to questions over reports on the upcoming test, which has received wide attention in the Chinese press with focus on the detail that the 5,000kmrange nuclear capable missile would bring many cities in China within range.**

**A Russia led security bloc said on Thursday that it planned to hold large military drills in Tajikistan next month, amid what it described as a deteriorating situation in neighbouring Afghanistan. Moscow has moved to cement its position as a key player in the region after the United States' hasty retreat from Afghanistan and the Taliban's takeover of the country.**

**French military forces have killed the leader of a West African affiliate of the Islamic State in an air strike, President Emmanuel Macron and other officials said. Adnan Abu Walid al-Sahrawi was the head of the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS), a jihadist group that broke away from other militants in Mali in 2015 when it pledged allegiance to the Islamic State**

**After a few weeks of desultory campaigning but months of relentless official moves to shut down significant opposition, Russia is holding three days of voting this weekend in a parliamentary election that is unlikely to change the country's political complexion. There's no expectation that United Russia, the party devoted to President Vladimir Putin, will lose its dominance of the State Duma, the elected lower house of Parliament.**

Multilateral Exercise, which is conducted biennially as part of military diplomacy between Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states.

**2.The 6th edition of Exercise PEACEFUL MISSION is being hosted by Russia in the Orenburg Region of South West Russia from 13 to 25 September 2021.**

**3.The aim of the exercise is to foster close relations between SCO member states and to enhance abilities of the military leaders to command multi-national military contingents.**

#### **TARBALLS**

**1.Tarballs have resurfaced on Mumbai's beaches like Cuffe Parade shoreline and Juhu beach and Versova beaches. Tarballs are dark-coloured, sticky black oil-emanating balls lying on the shore. Formation - Tarballs form when crude oil floats on the ocean surface. They are formed by weathering of crude oil in marine environments.**

**2.They are transported from the open sea to the shores by sea currents and waves. Tarballs are usually coin-sized and are found strewn on the beaches.** But, over the years, they have become as big as basketballs. They stick to the cleaning machinery and are very difficult to wash off. **3.They give off a foul fuel smell. Deposition - All the oil spilt in the Arabian Sea gets deposited on the western coast in the form of tarballs in the monsoon season when wind speed and circulation pattern favour transportation of these tarballs.**

**4.Tarballs are removed from the beaches post-high tide.**

#### **SHOONYA CAMPAIGN**

**1.With Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and RMI India's support, NITI Aayog has launched Shoonya Campaign. The Shoonya campaign aims to Accelerate adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the urban deliveries segment and Create consumer awareness about the health, environmental and economic benefits of zero-pollution delivery. Urban freight vehicles account for 10% of freight transportation-related CO2 emissions in India, and these emissions may grow by 114% percent by 2030.**

**2.As part of the campaign, a corporate branding & certification programme is being launched to promote industry's efforts towards transitioning to EVs for final-mile deliveries.** An online tracking platform will share the campaign's impact through data such as vehicle kilometers electrified, carbon savings, criteria pollutant savings and other benefits from clean delivery vehicles.

**3.EVs emit no tailpipe emissions, which can contribute immensely to an improved air quality. Even when accounting for their manufacture, they emit 15-40% less CO2 compared to their internal combustion engine counterparts and have lower operational cost.**

#### **SOLAR STORM AND INTERNET**

**1.A new study has found that solar storms could cause disruption of the internet, damage submarine cables and communication satellites. A solar storm is an ejection of highly magnetised particles from the sun.**

**2.Previous studies have shown that there is a 1.6 to 2% chance of an extreme space weather event happening within the next decade. Impacts of solar storm - Longer submarine cables may be susceptible to higher risks. At ground level, solar storm-induced geomagnetic variations can cause harm by inducing large currents in networks that can conduct electricity.**

**3.Although fibre-optic internet cables are themselves not conductors, their electronic components can be rendered useless by very strong storms. The countries in the lower latitudes are at a much lower risk. Also, compared to the US, India is less vulnerable.**

**4.Protection - The paper mentions a 'shutdown strategy' that can help minimise the connectivity loss during and after a solar storm impact.**

#### **HYBODONT SHARK**

**1.Teeth of new species of hybodont shark of Jurassic age called Strophodus jaisalmerensis have been reported for the first time from Jaisalmer region of Rajasthan by the Geological Survey of India (GSI).**

**2.Hybodonts sharks were a dominant group of fishes in both marine and fluvial environments during the Triassic and early Jurassic time. But, these sharks started to decline in marine environments from the Middle Jurassic onwards until they**

**A new climate change report out on Thursday shows that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius will be impossible without immediate, largescale emissions cuts, the UN chief said. The 'United in Science 2021' report, published by a range of UN agencies and scientific partners just weeks before the COP26 climate summit, said that climate change and its impacts were accelerating. And a temporary reduction in carbon emissions caused by the COVID19 pandemic had done nothing to slow the relentless warming, the report found.**

formed a relatively minor component of open-marine shark assemblages.

**3.**Hybodonts finally became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous time 65 million years ago.