

Current Affairs search results for tag: national-news

### 1. US recognizes McMahon Line as international border ( March 16, 2023 )

**The United States** has recognized the **McMahon Line** as the **international boundary between Arunachal Pradesh and China** in a recently passed **bipartisan resolution**, calling it an **"integral part of India"**.

#### An overview of the news

- The resolution rejected Beijing's claim that the northeastern state Arunachal Pradesh falls under Chinese territory.
- In addition to recognizing the McMahon Line, the resolution also condemned **Chinese provocations in the region**, including the use of military force by China to change the status quo at the Line of Actual Control.
- The resolution also condemned the construction of villages in disputed areas, the publication of maps of cities in Arunachal Pradesh, and the expansion of Beijing's territorial claims on Bhutan.
- The resolution, titled '**Reaffirmation of Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory and condemnation of China's provocative activities in South Asia**', came after a major clash between the Indian and Chinese forces in **Arunachal's Tawang** in December last year.

#### What is the McMahon Line?

- **India and China** share a **3,500 km long border which is disputed**.
- The line that delineates the **boundary between the two countries is called the McMahon Line**.
- The border of India and China can be divided into three parts. **Western Zone, Central Zone and Eastern Zone**.
- The line separating India and China is the McMahon Line although **China considers the McMahon Line illegal**.
- The McMahon Line was drawn during the **Simla Convention of 1914**, officially described as a convention between Great Britain, China and Tibet.

### 2. Govt introduces bill in Lok Sabha to strengthen tri-services commanders' powers ( March 16, 2023 )

Govt introduces bill in Lok Sabha to strengthen tri-services commanders' powers

The **Defense Ministry introduced a bill in Parliament** on March 15, giving the **three service chiefs disciplinary powers** over all personnel of the three forces serving under them.

#### An overview of the news

- The name of the bill is "**Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023**".
- Minister of State for Defense **Ajay Bhatt** introduced the bill.
- The Bill seeks to empower the **Commander-in-Chief or the Officer-in-Command of Inter-Services Organizations** for the maintenance of discipline and proper discharge of their duties in relation to service personnel.
- According to the bill, the central government can constitute an **Inter-Services Organization** through a notification.
- Presently the **Indian Air Force, Army and Navy** are governed by the **Air Force Act, 1950, the Army Act, 1950 and the Navy Act, 1957** respectively.
- Therefore, only the officers of these three armed forces are given **disciplinary powers**.
- This has implications for the inter-service organizations of the services, such as the **Andaman and Nicobar Command, the Defense Space Agency and joint training establishments such as the National Defense Academy (NDA)**.
- Therefore, the Command-in-Chief or Officer-in-Command of such military organizations does not get disciplinary and administrative powers when attached to other services.

### **3. Green national highway corridor project to be implemented in four states ( March 16, 2023 )**

**India and the World Bank** have signed a **loan agreement for the construction of the Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP) in four States**.

#### **An overview of the news**

- These four states are- **Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh**.
- Agreement has been signed for construction of **781 kilometer green national highway corridor** in these states with a line of credit of \$500 million.
- Road Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari** gave this information in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on March 15.

#### **About Green National Highways Corridor Project**

- It will assist the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** to construct 781 km of highways.
- It will integrate safe and green technology designs such as **local and marginal materials, industrial by-products** and other bioengineering solutions.
- It will also support the **Bharatmala Pariyojana programme**.

**Components of the project**

- Sustainable development and maintenance of National Highways.
- Institutional Capacity Enhancement and Road Safety.
- Research and Development.

**Objective of GNHCP**

- To demonstrate safe and green highways keeping in mind climate resilience and use of green technologies by incorporating provisions for conservation of natural resources, use of cement-treated reclaimed asphalt pavement.
- Use of local/marginal materials such as lime, fly ash, waste plastic, bio-engineering measures such as hydroseeding, coco/jute fibre, etc.
- It will enhance the capacity of the Ministry to mainstream green technologies.

**4. Denmark becomes the first country in the world to import CO2 and store it under the sea ( March 15, 2023 )**

Denmark has launched a project to store carbon dioxide 1,800 metres below the North Sea,

**Denmark** has **launched a project to store carbon dioxide 1,800 metres below the North Sea**, making it the **first country in the world to bury CO2 imported** from another country.

**News Overview**

- **CO2 burial project**, where carbon is injected into the site of an old oil field to prevent further warming of the atmosphere.
- The project is called "**Greensand**" and is being led by **British chemical Giant Ineos and German oil company Wintershall Dia**.
- The project aims to store **eight million tonnes of CO2 per year by 2030**.
- The **North Sea was chosen for the project** because it already has pipelines and potential storage sites due to decades of oil and gas production.
- According to the **European Environment Agency (EEA)**, EU member states released **3.7 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases in 2020 alone**.

**About Denmark**

- Capital - **Copenhagen**
- Prime Minister - **Mette Frederiksen**
- Official name - **Kingdom of Denmark**
- Official language - **Danish**

- Currency - **Krone**
- Form of Government - **constitutional monarchy**

## **5. India world's largest arms importer: SIPRI report 2023 ( March 15, 2023 )**

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) 2023 report, India will become the world's leading arms importer in 2022.

According to the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) 2023 report, India will become the world's leading arms importer in 2022.**

### **News Overview**

- According to this report, between the years 2013-17 and 2018-22, **India's arms imports have decreased by 11 percent.**
- According to the report's findings, over the past five years, the **US had the world's largest military expenditure**, accounting for **40%** of the global share, followed by **Russia (16%), and France (11%).**

### **About SIPRI**

- The **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** is a global non-profit research institute.
- SIPRI focuses on **resolving conflicts, controlling arms and promoting disarmament.**
- The institute provides data, analysis and advice regarding armed conflicts, military expenditure and the arms trade.
- Establishment - **6 May 1966**
- Founders - **Tage Erlander, Alva Myrdal**
- Chairman - **Stefan Lofven**
- Director - **Dan Smith**
- Headquarter - **Solna**

## **6. Tim Mayopoulos has been appointed CEO of Silicon Valley Bank by the FDIC ( March 15, 2023 )**

**Tim Mayopoulos**, the **former CEO of Fannie Mae**, has been selected by the **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)** as the **CEO of Silicon Valley Bank**, a subsidiary of the defunct SVB Financial Group.

### **News Overview**

- Prior to joining StartupBlend, Mayopoulos was CEO of mortgage financier Fannie Mae for more than six years.

**About Silicon Valley Bank**

- Establishment - **1983**
- Founder - **Roger V Smith**
- President - **Gregory W. Baker**
- Headquarters - **Santa Clara, California (United States)**

**About the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)**

- Formed - **1933**
- Jurisdiction - **United States federal government**
- Founder - **Franklin D. Roosevelt**
- Headquarters - **Washington, D.C. (United States)**

**7. Atal Innovation Mission launches ATL Sarthi to strengthen ecosystem of Atal Tinkering Labs ( March 15, 2023 )**

NITI Aayog on 14 March launched 'ATL Sarthi',

**Atal Innovation Mission - NITI Aayog** on 14 March launched '**ATL Sarthi**', a comprehensive self-monitoring framework to strengthen the ecosystem of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL).

**An overview of the news**

- Atal Innovation Mission is setting up Atal Tinkering Labs in schools across the country to foster curiosity, creativity and imagination in young minds.
- Atal Tinkering Labs **Sarathi** will act as a charioteer and enable Atal Tinkering Labs to be efficient and effective.
- **ATL Sarthi** will provide a monitoring and evaluation framework to enhance the performance of Atal Tinkering Labs.

**Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**

- This is an important initiative taken by the Government of India to promote the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.

**Objective of AIM**

- Developing new programs and policies to **promote innovation in various sectors of the economy.**
- Providing forums and opportunities for collaboration for various stakeholders.
- To create an umbrella structure to create awareness and monitor the innovation ecosystem of the country.
- Mission Director AIM - **Dr Chintan Vaishnav**

### **Atal Tinkering Labs**

- The **Atal Innovation Mission** has set up **Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL)** in schools across India.
- The scheme aims to foster curiosity, creativity and imagination in young minds.
- It develops skills like design mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing etc.

### **8. Union Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurates 16th meeting of SCO Youth Council ( March 15, 2023 )**

16th meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Youth Council

The **16th meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Youth Council** was held in hybrid mode in **New Delhi** on 14 March, under the **chairship of India.**

#### **An overview of the news**

- Youth Affairs and Sports Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur** inaugurated the meeting of the SCO Youth Council.
- The meeting was chaired by **Nitesh Kumar Mishra**, Joint Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, Government of India.
- In the meeting, SCO member states shared information on the activities of the **SCO Youth Council in 2022-2023.**
- The report of the SCO Youth Conference held on March 13, 2023 in virtual mode on the theme "**Effective Community Development Activities**" was delivered to all SCO member states.
- The Protocol was signed on March 14, 2023 in New Delhi in **eight copies in the Russian and Chinese languages.**

### **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**

- It is a permanent **intergovernmental international organization.**
- It was **founded in 2001.**

- The **SCO Charter was signed in 2002**, and came into force in 2003.
- It is a Eurasian political, economic and military organization.
- Its aim is to maintain **peace, security and stability** in the region.
- **China, Russia and four Central Asian states - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan** - were founding members of the SCO.
- Its members include **China, Russia, India and Pakistan, as well as 4 Central Asian countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.**
- Official Languages - **Russian and Chinese**
- Chairmanship - **On the basis of rotation for a year by Member States**

### **9. Second G20 Sustainable Financial Working Group (SFWG) meeting to be held in Udaipur ( March 15, 2023 )**

mobilize sustainable finance to help ensure global growth and stability.

The **Second G20 Sustainable Financial Working Group (SFWG) meeting** will be held at **Udaipur in Rajasthan** from 21 to 23 March.

#### **An overview of the news**

- The purpose of the meeting is to **mobilize sustainable finance to help ensure global growth and stability.**
- Around **150 delegates from G20 member states**, guest countries and various international organizations will participate in the meeting.
- Cultural programs and sightseeing tours will also be organized for the guests during the event.
- The G20 focuses on promoting international economic cooperation and addressing key economic challenges faced by its member states, including issues related to finance, trade, and global economic development.
- The first meeting of the Sustainable Finance Working Group under G20 was organised in **Guwahati on 3 February 2023.**

### **10. Second Education Working Group meeting of G20 countries begin in Amritsar ( March 15, 2023 )**

The **Ministry of Education** is hosting the **second Education Working Group** meeting on March 15 in **Amritsar, Punjab.**

#### **An overview of the news**

- **28 G20 member countries**, guest countries and invited organizations (OECD, UNESCO and UNICEF) are participating in the three-day event, which includes seminars, exhibitions and working group meetings.
- A seminar on '**Strengthening research and promoting innovation through rich collaborations**' will be organized by **IIT Ropar** in collaboration with IISc Bengaluru, IIM Amritsar and TISS Mumbai at Khalsa College.
- The seminar will begin with a presentation by IISc Bengaluru on '**Research Initiatives in G20 Countries**'.
- The **first meeting of G20 Education Working Group (G20 EWG)** 2023 was held in **Chennai on 1st and 2nd February**.

**Deliberation on the four priority areas**

- Ensuring Foundational Literacy and Numeracy especially in the context of blended learning.
- Making Tech-enabled learning more inclusive, qualitative and collaborative at every level.
- Building Capacities, promoting Life-long Learning in the context of Future of Work.
- Strengthening Research, promoting Innovation through richer collaboration and partnerships.