

## Earthquake

### ❖ Context

- Recently, a **5.6 magnitude earthquake** left more than **260 dead and hundreds injured** as buildings crumbled and terrified residents ran for their lives on **Indonesia's main island of Java**.

### Key Highlights

- The **country is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis** because of its location on the arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin known as the **“Ring of Fire.”**
- The area spans some 40,000 kilometers (25,000 miles) and is where a majority of the world's earthquakes occur.

### Earthquakes

#### • About

- An earthquake is the **shaking of the surface of the Earth**.
- It results from the sudden release of energy in the Earth's lithosphere that creates seismic waves.
- Earthquake is the **form of energy** of wave motion transmitted through the surface layer of the earth.

#### • Cause

- According to the **theory of plate tectonics**, the Earth's crust and upper mantle are made of large rigid plates that can move relative to one another.
- **Slips on faults** near the plate boundaries can result in earthquakes.

#### • Focus and Epicenter

- The point inside the Earth where the **earthquake rupture starts** is called the focus or hypocentre.
- The point **directly above it** on the surface of the Earth is the epicenter.

#### • Seismic Waves

- Seismic waves are the waves of energy **caused by the sudden breaking of rock within the earth**.
- They are the energy that **travels through the earth** and is recorded on seismographs.
- The **two main types** of waves are body waves and surface waves.

#### • Body Waves

- These waves **travel into the body of the earth**.
- These waves are somewhat like **sound waves**.
- These are **faster than surface waves**.
- **P-waves**

##### ■ Move faster

and are first to arrive at the surface.

##### ■ Travel through **gaseous, liquid, and solid materials**.

##### ■ High frequency and are the **least destructive**.

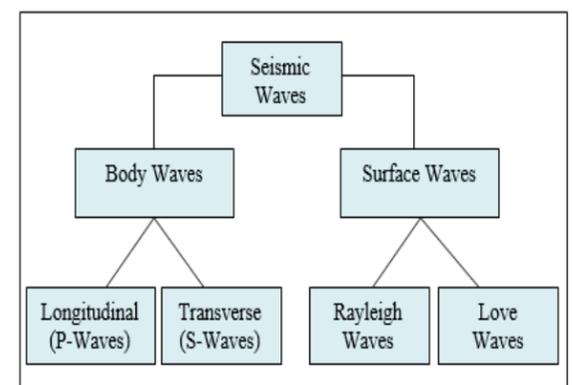
- **S-waves**

##### ■ Arrive at the surface with some lag.

##### ■ Travel only through **solid materials**.

#### • Surface Waves

- When the body waves interact with surface rocks, a **new set of waves is generated called surface waves**.
- These waves **move along the earth's surface**.
- Surface waves are also **transverse waves** in which particle movement is perpendicular to the wave propagation.
- They are similar to waves on the **water surface**.
- They are **last to report on seismographs**.
- These waves are **more destructive**.



## Nyingma Sect of Buddhism

### ❖ Context

- The Nyingma sect has identified a boy from Spiti in Himachal Pradesh as the reincarnation of the late **Taklung Setrunga Rinpoche** who used to live in the **Takthok monastery** of **Ladakh**.

### About Nyingma sect

- The Nyingma sect, which literally means **“Old order”** is the **oldest of all Buddhist sects** of Tibet.
- The Other three main Tibetan Buddhism schools, **Sakya, Kagyu, and Gelug**, collectively refer to New Order (Sarma).
- The most important source of the Nyingma order is the Indian Guru, **Padmasambhava**, who came to Tibet in the eighth century C.E.

- Abbot Shantarakshita, Guru Padmasambhava, and the King together founded **Samyey monastery**, the first Tibetan Buddhist monastery.
- It became the principal Buddhist centre of learning where many of the **Indian Buddhist texts were first translated into Tibetan**.
- The followers of the sect are spread across **Tibet, Bhutan, Ladakh, Sikkim and other Himalayan Buddhist pockets**.

## Face to Face Centres



- **King Trisong Deutsan (742-797)** had earlier invited the **Great Abbot, Shantirakshita**, to help establish Buddhism in Tibet.
- Upon his advice, the King invited Padmasambhava to Tibet.
- He is most well known as **“Guru Rinpoche,”** or the **“precious guru.”**

### Unique aspects of Nyingma

- The **practice of Dzogchen (Great Perfection)**. It is the highest perfection in deity visualisation. It seeks to directly examine the fundamental mind without the aid of visualisation like statue and Thangka.
- The **tradition of Terma**. According to the belief, Padmasambhava has hidden lots of scriptures in a different location for the future master to find and preach.

## South China Sea Code of Conduct

### ❖ Context

- The Indian Defence Minister has said that the ongoing negotiations on the Code of Conduct (CoC) for South China Sea should not prejudice the legitimate rights of the party nations & not be inconsistent with the international law.

### Key highlights

- The remarks were made at the **ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) Defence Ministers Plus** meeting in Cambodia.
- The Code of Conduct (CoC) is intended to reduce the risk of conflict in the South China Sea in the disputed waterway where China’s expansive maritime and territorial claims clash with those of four ASEAN member states: **Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Brunei**.
- The evolution of the CoC dates back to **1992**, when ASEAN issued its first statement on territorial disputes in the South China Sea.
- The concept of a CoC was endorsed in **1996**.
- In 2002, they signed a **Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DoC)** making it the **first political document** signed on the South China Sea issue.
- The draft guidelines were adopted in **2011**.
- A CoC is supposed to be an upgraded version of the DoC that would take yet another step towards regional peace and stability.

### About the ADMM Plus

- The 9th ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) was convened in **Siem Reap, Cambodia**.
- ADMM Plus is an annual meeting (since 2017) of Defence Ministers of **ten ASEAN countries** and its **eight dialogue partner countries**, viz., India, USA, Russia, China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.
- The **Inaugural ADMM-Plus** was convened in **Hanoi, Vietnam**, on 12 October **2010**.
- It allows enhanced dialogue and cooperation among ASEAN and the Plus Countries in the midst of an increasingly challenging regional security environment.
- **The Chairmanship of the ADMM-Plus follows the Chairmanship of the ADMM.**

## Myawaddy

### ❖ Context

- India’s Foreign Secretary interacted with members of Myanmar’s military junta regime during his visit to the country recently.

### Key highlights

- He engaged in a discussion on **border management, human trafficking issues and infrastructure projects**.
- Among them, he raised the issue of human trafficking by international crime syndicates in the Myawaddy area of Myanmar in which many Indian nationals have been caught.
- They were rescued by a joint operation between India and Thailand last month.

### Why was Myawaddy in discussion?

- Myawaddy is a town in **southeastern Myanmar** separated from the Thailand border by the northward flowing **Moei River**.
- The town is the most important trading point between Myanmar and Thailand.

### Background

- In the years **before the pandemic**, corruption led the development of the **unregulated areas**.
- Billed as “special economic zones” by the developers, they were meant to **house online gambling operations** and would attract millions of Chinese gamblers, tourists and workers.
- Due to COVID lockdown, these huge gambling centres collapsed.
- In 2021 China initiated an unprecedented campaign to force many of its nationals in Southeast Asia to return home or face strict penalties.

## Face to Face Centres



- Law enforcement agencies are facing a new post-COVID trend in transnational crime: the **proliferation of criminally run zones in Myanmar, Cambodia & Laos**, and an explosion of human trafficking for labor in these ungoverned enclaves.
- As the pandemic raged across the region, construction of new enclaves exploded along a 40-kilometre stretch of the Moei River.
- In response, the gangs began **large-scale trafficking of alternative labour** into the zones and developing **new fraud schemes** that rely on large numbers of **scammers building personal contacts with potential victims on social media**.

## News in Between the Lines

### Guru Tegh Bahadur



#### ❖ Context

- Every year November 24 is commemorated as the Shaheedi Divas of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

#### ❖ About Guru Tegh Bahadur

- **Born** in Amritsar on April 21, 1621.
- He was the **ninth of ten Gurus** of the Sikh religion. His term as Guru ran from **1665 to 1675**.
- Aurangzeb was the ruling Mughal emperor at the time.
- He is often **regarded as the 'Protector of Humanity'** (Srisht-di-Chadar) by the Sikhs.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur was **trained in martial arts, swordsmanship, and horseback riding as a kid**.
- Despite being a capable soldier accompanying his father in several battles, **he seems to have chosen a life of renunciation and meditation**.
- He **traveled widely to spread Nanak's teachings**.
- **One hundred and fifteen of his hymns** are in **Guru Granth Sahib**.
- He founded the town of **Chak-Nanki in Punjab**, which later became a part of **Punjab's Anandpur Sahib**.
- He **opposed forcible conversions of non-Muslims to Islam**.
- In the year 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was **executed in Delhi under the orders of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb**.
- **Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib and Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib** in Delhi mark the places of execution and cremation of his body.
- Inspired by him, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, finally formed the Sikh group into a separate, formal, symbol-patterned society that became known as Khalsa (Martial).
- His martyrdom is remembered as the Shaheedi Divas of Guru Tegh Bahadur every year on 24 November.

### Agni-3

#### ❖ Context

- Recently, India carried out a **successful launch of Agni-3 Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile** from A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.

#### ❖ Key Highlights

- The successful test was **part of routine user training** launches carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command.
- The launch was carried out for a predetermined range and **validated all operational parameters** of the system.

#### ❖ About Agni- 3

- Agni-3 is the **third entrant in the Agni missile series** and was first tested on July 9, 2006.

## Face to Face Centres





- But it developed a technical snag and had fell into the sea off Odisha coast without hitting the target.
- The missile is **capable of carrying a nuclear warhead** and hitting target **3,500 kilometres away**.
- The missile's strike **range** is between **1,000 km and 2,000 km**.
- Due to its high range of circular error probable (CEP), Agni-3 missile is known as world's most accurate strategic ballistic missile of its range class.

## Antimicrobial Resistance

### Factors responsible

Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria change and become resistant to the antibiotics used to treat the infections they cause.



### ❖ Context

- The Sultanate of Oman is hosting the **3rd High-level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** in Muscat, Oman on 24 and 25 November 2022.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare is participating in the conference.
- The **objective** of the conference is to accelerate tackling AMR at the national, regional, and global levels and to enhance international cooperation.
- **Theme:** 'The AMR Pandemic: From Policy to One Health Action'.

### ❖ About Antimicrobial Resistance

- **Antimicrobials** – including antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals and antiparasitics – are medicines used to prevent and treat infections in humans, animals and plants.
- **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and **no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat** and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.
  - As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines become ineffective and infections become increasingly difficult or impossible to treat.

## Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)



### ❖ Context

- Recently, The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (**OECD**) said that **the global economy is on track to avoid a recession in 2023** but the worst energy crisis since the 1970s will trigger a sharp slowdown, with Europe hit hardest amid the war in Ukraine.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- OECD was **established on Dec. 14, 1960**, by 18 European nations, plus the United States and Canada.
- The organization is **headquartered in the Chateau de la Muette in Paris, France**.
- It is a **group of 38 member** countries that discuss and develop economic and social policy.
- **Members of the OECD are typically democratic countries** that support free-market economies.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Most OECD members are high-income economies with a very high Human Development Index (HDI) and are regarded as developed countries.</li> <li>➤ The OECD member states collectively comprised 62.2% of global nominal GDP (US\$49.6 trillion) and 42.8% of global GDP (Int\$54.2 trillion) at purchasing power parity in 2017.</li> <li>➤ The stated goal of OECD is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all.</li> <li>➤ OECD is an official Permanent observer to the United Nations and is referred to as a think-tank or as a monitoring group.</li> <li>➤ India is one of the many non-member economies with which the OECD has working relationships in addition to its member countries</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INS Manjula</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Shalimar Shipyard launched a ferry craft, <i>INS Manjula</i>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Key highlights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The ferry craft is intended for transporting personnel to and from ships at anchorage, delivering rations and stores to ships in emergency and patrol within harbour limits.</li> <li>➤ The Shalimar Shipyard is 135 years old, based in <b>Howrah</b>, West Bengal. It was established by <b>Turner Morrison</b> in <b>1885</b>.</li> <li>➤ It was a major ship-repair unit on the entire east coast during its heydays. The West Bengal government took it over in 1980. It is trying to revitalise the company now.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GSTN</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It has been decided to include the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) as a financial information provider (FIP) under the account aggregator framework.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Key highlights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The <b>Department of Revenue</b> shall be the regulator of GSTN for this specific purpose and GST returns.</li> <li>➤ It will allow regulated entities to access GST data with individual consent and facilitate cash flow-based lending to MSMEs.</li> <li>➤ The Goods and Service Tax Network (or GSTN) is a <b>non-profit, non-government organisation</b>.</li> <li>➤ It manages the entire IT system of the GST portal. The government uses this portal to track every financial transaction and provide taxpayers with all services – from registration to filing taxes and maintaining all tax details.</li> <li>➤ The authorised capital of the GSTN is Rs 10 crore. <b>Private players</b> - HDFC (10%), HDFC Bank (10%), ICICI Bank (10%), NSE Strategic Investment Co (10%) &amp; LIC Housing Finance Ltd (11%) - <b>own a 51% share</b> in the GSTN.</li> <li>➤ The government owns the <b>remaining 49% shares</b> which are <b>divided equally between the Central and State governments</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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