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EKLAVYA DIGITAL PLATFORM



- It has been developed under the aegis of **Headquarters Army Training Command with Army War College** as the sponsor agency.
- The platform has been developed by the “Bhaskaracharya National Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics” (BISAG-N), Gandhinagar, along with support from the Directorate General of Information Systems.
- This platform has been **hosted on the Army Data Network** and features a scalable architecture. This enables Headquarters Army Training Command to seamlessly integrate any number of training establishments of the Indian Army, **each capable of hosting an extensive range of courses**.
- This initiative aligns with the Indian Army propelling itself into the “Decade of Transformation” as envisioned by the COAS and also with Indian Army’s theme for 2024 as the “**Year of Technology Absorption.**”
- Student officers are permitted to register for multiple courses simultaneously.

There are **three categories of courses** hosted

- **‘Pre-Course Preparatory Capsules’:** It has study material for all offline physical courses being conducted at **various Category ‘A’ training establishments**. The aim is to shift the “basics” to the online courses so that physical courses have more and more contemporary content with a focus on the “application part”.
- **Appointment or specific assignment-related courses:** The courses in this category will also enable the **officers to get domain specialisation** in the field of their choice, which will further aid their employment planning.
- **Professional Development Suite:** It will include courses on Strategy, Operational Art, Leadership, Organisational Behaviour, Finance, Art of Reading, Power Writing, Emerging Technology etc.



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- The Eklavya also has the functionality of a **searchable “Knowledge Highway”**, wherein various journals, research papers and articles etc are uploaded under a single window.
- The platform will go a long way in encouraging continuous professional military education in the officers, decongest and enrich the existing physical course, preparing officers for specialist appointments and encouraging domain specialisation.

K-4 BALLISTIC MISSILE



- It is a **nuclear-capable ballistic missile** with a range of **around 3,500 km.**
- It is a **solid-fuelled missile** which was tested at least five times in the last few years from submersible platforms.
- The successful launch of the K-4 missile adds another **layer of strength to India’s nuclear triad**, which includes land-based missiles, air-launched nuclear weapons and submarine-launched platforms.
- It is developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**
- **Significance:** It provides a major boost to India’s nuclear deterrence and strategic capabilities.

Key facts about the INS Arighaat

- It was commissioned in **August 2024.**
- It is India’s **second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)**, following India's first nuclear submarine, INS Arihant.
- It was constructed at the **Indian Navy's Ship Building Centre (SBC)** in Visakhapatnam.
- It can **carry up to four nuclear-capable K-4 SLBMs** (Submarine Launched ballistic Missile) with a range of over 3500 kilometers or twelve conventional warhead K-15 SLBMs with a range of about 750 kilometers.



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OPEC +



- It is a group of **22 oil-exporting countries** which meets regularly to decide how much crude oil to sell on the world market.
- These nations aim to work together on **adjusting crude oil production** to bring stability to the oil market.
- **Origin:** These nations came to an accord towards the end of 2016 “to institutionalize a framework for cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC producing countries on a regular and sustainable basis.”
- At the core of this group are the **12 members of OPEC** (the Organization of the Oil Exporting Countries), which are mainly Middle Eastern and African countries.
- **Members:** It comprises 12 OPEC countries plus Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Russia, Mexico, Malaysia, South Sudan, Sudan and Oman.

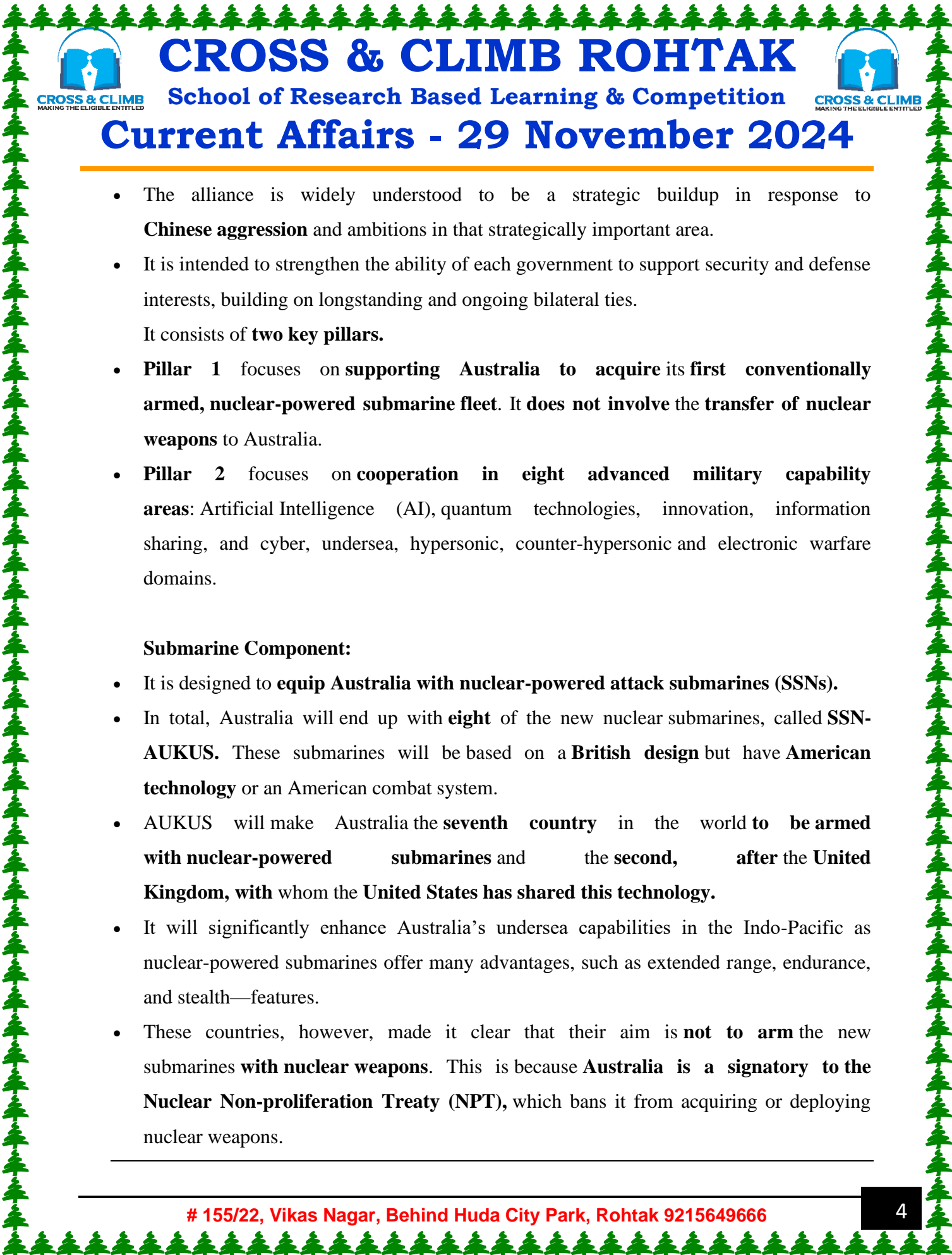
What is OPEC?

- It is a permanent intergovernmental organization of **oil-exporting countries**.
- **Formation:** It was **established in 1960** by the five founding members Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- Currently, it has **12 members**, including Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates.
- **Angola** withdrew its membership effective **1 January 2024**.
- **Headquarters:** Vienna, Austria.

WHAT IS AUKUS?



- It is a **trilateral security partnership** between the **United Kingdom, the United States of America and Australia** agreed in 2021 that focuses on **technology sharing in the Indo-Pacific region**.



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- The alliance is widely understood to be a strategic buildup in response to **Chinese aggression** and ambitions in that strategically important area.
- It is intended to strengthen the ability of each government to support security and defense interests, building on longstanding and ongoing bilateral ties.

It consists of **two key pillars**.

- **Pillar 1** focuses on **supporting Australia to acquire its first conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine fleet**. It does not involve the transfer of nuclear weapons to Australia.
- **Pillar 2** focuses on **cooperation in eight advanced military capability areas**: Artificial Intelligence (AI), quantum technologies, innovation, information sharing, and cyber, undersea, hypersonic, counter-hypersonic and electronic warfare domains.

Submarine Component:

- It is designed to **equip Australia with nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs)**.
- In total, Australia will end up with **eight** of the new nuclear submarines, called **SSN-AUKUS**. These submarines will be based on a **British design** but have **American technology** or an American combat system.
- **AUKUS** will make Australia the **seventh country** in the world to **be armed with nuclear-powered submarines** and the **second, after the United Kingdom, with whom the United States has shared this technology**.
- It will significantly enhance Australia's undersea capabilities in the Indo-Pacific as nuclear-powered submarines offer many advantages, such as extended range, endurance, and stealth—features.
- These countries, however, made it clear that their aim is **not to arm** the new submarines **with nuclear weapons**. This is because **Australia is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT)**, which bans it from acquiring or deploying nuclear weapons.



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TATO-I HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT



- It will be located in Shi Yomi District of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - The project, with an installed capacity of **186 MW (3 x 62 MW)**, is expected to be completed in 50 months and will generate 802 million units (MU) of electricity annually.
 - The power generated will improve the power supply in Arunachal Pradesh and contribute to balancing the national grid.
 - It will be developed through a **joint venture between the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NEEPCO) and the Arunachal Pradesh government**.
 - The Central Government will provide ₹77.37 crore for infrastructure such as roads, bridges and transmission lines, along with ₹120.43 crore in financial assistance for the state's equity share.
 - **Arunachal Pradesh will receive 12% of the generated power for free**, with an additional 1% allocated to a Local Area Development Fund (LADF).
-

GIRNAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



- It is located in the Junagadh district of
 - It spans the rugged terrain of the **Girnar hills**, which are a part of the **Saurashtra region**.
 - It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 2008.
 - It is home to several endangered species, including the Asiatic lion.
- Flora:**
- It hosts predominantly **dry deciduous forests** with species like teak, dhak, acacia and other drought-resistant plants.
 - It supports a **mix of dense forest, open scrub and grasslands**.
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Fauna:

- It is filled with abundant wildlife, including **Asiatic lions, spotted deer, Sambar, Chousinghas, Chinkaras**, leopards, Indian golden jackals and around 300 species of birds.
 - It serves as an **extension of the Gir National Park's lion population**.
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CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SCHEME TO PROMOTE NATURAL FARMING

- The Agriculture Ministry defines natural farming as a “chemical-free” farming system that only uses inputs produced using livestock and plant resources.
- It is a system where the laws of nature are applied to agricultural practices.
 - This method works along with the natural biodiversity of each farmed area.
 - It encourages the complexity of living organisms, both plants, and animals that shape each particular ecosystem to thrive along with food plants.
- **Natural Farming in India**
 - There are many working models of natural farming all over the world, the zero-budget natural farming (ZBNF) is the most popular model in India.
 - ZBNF was popularized by Subhash Palekar in India.

National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)

- NMNF builds on the Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhti (BPKP), launched under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY).
- The Centre also promoted natural farming in a five-kilometre belt along the Ganga River under the Namami Gange scheme in the financial year 2022-23.
- In her Budget Speech (2024-25), Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a plan to initiate one crore farmers countrywide into natural farming in the next two years.

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About

- The government launched the NMNF within 100 days of returning to power in 2024, with a target to initiate one crore farmers into natural farming over the next two years.
- This initiative will include certification, branding, and the establishment of 10,000 bio-input resource centres, implemented via scientific institutions and gram panchayats.

Mission Objectives

- Promote sustainable agriculture through natural farming.
- Create a robust infrastructure for training, certification, and branding of chemical-free produce.
- Develop a large-scale adoption model through effective farmer support and community engagement.

Coverage under natural farming

- **Current Coverage** - 22 lakh hectares under natural farming; 34 lakh farmers engaged nationwide.
 - **Breakdown of Coverage**
 - 4 lakh hectares under the Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhti (BPKP)
 - 88,000 hectares under Namami Gange
 - 17 lakh hectares under various state government initiatives.
 - **Goals of the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)**
 - Target Area Expansion: Add 7.5 lakh hectares under natural farming.
 - Cluster-Based Implementation: Establish 15,000 clusters in willing Gram Panchayats.
 - Farmer Outreach: Reach 1 crore farmers within two years.
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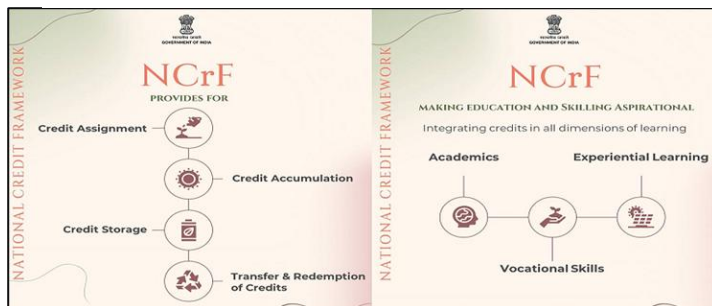


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UGC APPROVES FLEXIBLE DURATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMMES

- The NEP 2020 has introduced visionary reforms to dismantle the colonial legacy in India's education system.
- Among its transformative initiatives is the National Credit Framework (NCrF), which **promotes flexibility, skill integration, and multidisciplinary education** to address India's evolving societal and economic needs.
- **Developed by:**
 - School education (CBSE, NCERT and NIOS),
 - Higher education (UGC, AICTE),
 - Vocational education (NCVET and DGT),
 - Overall representation (Ministry of Education and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship).
- **Key features:**



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- **Unified credit accumulation and transfer:**
 - NCrF allows the seamless accumulation and transfer of credits **across disciplines**, including

skill and vocational education.

- It provides an **enabling, non-regulatory framework for educational institutions.**
- **Flexibility for students:**
 - Credits can be earned through diverse activities, such as Classroom teaching and laboratory work; Research projects, sports, yoga, performing arts, and social work; Internships, on-the-job training, and apprenticeships.



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- This approach enables students to tailor their academic paths based on interests and career goals.
- Alignment with modern needs:
 - NCrF addresses the skill mismatch by equipping students with competencies for emerging jobs and self-employment.
 - Encourages HEIs to adapt to economic and technological advancements.
- Impact on Higher Education Institutions (HEIs):
 - Multidisciplinary education and research:
 - NEP 2020 advocates the establishment of multidisciplinary education and research universities (MERUs) as hubs for intellectual growth.
 - HEIs are encouraged to focus on both **knowledge production and vocational training** to meet diverse societal needs.
 - Democratisation of education:
 - By promoting flexibility and skill integration, the NCrF ensures that higher education is **accessible and inclusive**.
 - **Reduces elitism in higher education** by balancing theoretical and practical learning.
 - Vocational and skill training:
 - Vocational and skill training is placed on par with traditional academic pursuits.
 - Institutions can specialise in various roles, from fundamental research to skill development, fostering interconnected processes.

Conclusion:

By enabling students to accelerate or extend their academic timelines, the initiative empowers them to navigate their educational goals more effectively while maintaining academic equivalence and credibility.
