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GLOBAL SECURITY INITIATIVE

A new Global Security Initiative put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping will look to counter the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy and the Quad — the India, U.S., Australia, Japan grouping — according to Chinese officials.

About:

Xi last week first proposed what he called a Global Security Initiative, speaking at the Boao Forum in China, warning against “hegemonism, power politics and bloc confrontation”. China would like to propose a Global Security Initiative, which would “oppose unilateralism, and say no to group politics and bloc confrontation.” This would “oppose the wanton use of unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction”, appearing to refer to Western sanctions. China’s proposed security initiative would “oppose” what he called “the destruction of the international order under the banner of so-called ‘rules’ and the dragging of the world under the cloud of the ‘new cold war’”, and would “build an Asian security model of mutual respect, openness and integration”.

Targeting Asian NATO?

China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi had also taken aim at the Quad last month, suggesting that the grouping was equivalent to the “Five Eyes” intelligence alliance involving the Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the U.S. and U.K. and the AUKUS pact, as a key element in what he called U.S. plans to build an “Asian NATO”. The members of the Quad have rejected the notion that it is an Asian NATO or a military alliance, and pointed to its broad-based cooperation, including on vaccines and technology.

ADIGRAMS

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) organises 2 days’ workshop in Jharkhand on ADIGRAMS (Adivasi Grants Management System) on 27th and 28th April 2022.

About:

Adivasi Grants Management System (ADIGRAMS) Portal will provide a central database for Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the State Tribal Development/ Welfare Department to access, interact and analyse up-to-date scheme wise Physical and financial information and progress. The portal will enable the officials/stakeholders at Central, State, District, Block and village level to access, monitor and measure performance in a real-time basis and take decisions accordingly.

This portal covers the following schemes of MoTA:

- Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India
- Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Scheme (TSS)
- Scheme for development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)
- Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Produce
- Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP (MSP for MFPs)

NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK (NCF)

Union Education Minister will be launching the Mandate Document of National Curriculum Framework (NCF) on 29th April, 2022.

About:

The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 recommends the development of National Curriculum Frameworks (NCF) in four areas- School Education, Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Teacher Education and Adult Education. For providing inputs for the development of these, four curriculum frameworks, 25 themes based on the perspectives of the NEP, 2020 are identified under the three categories, viz.,

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Curriculum and Pedagogy Cross-cutting Issues Other important areas of NEP, 2020 focussing on systemic changes and reforms. The Mandate Document describes the development process of the NCF, its expected structure and objectives, and some of the basic principles from the NEP 2020 that will inform the development of the four NCFs. The NCF is being drafted through a collaborative and consultative process, starting from district to state level and then National level. The 'Guidelines for Position Papers for the Development of the National Curriculum Framework' is an integral part of this Mandate Document.

AZADI SE ANTYODAYA TAK

Union Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Shri Giriraj Singh today launched 'Azadi Se Antyodaya Tak', a 90-day campaign with a mission to saturate 75 Districts across 28 States/UTs with beneficiary schemes of 09 central ministries.

About: Celebrating the spirit of the year-long Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), the identified districts are aligned with the birth place of 99 Freedom Fighters, who made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation during India's struggle for independence. The goal of the campaign is to take up 17 select schemes with direct assistance to beneficiaries in saturation mode, reaching out to the person at the bottom of the pyramid in rural areas by each of the participating ministries/departments. The 75 districts, marginally lagging behind in the development parameters, have been shortlisted through MPCE (Monthly per Capita Indicators) and D5/D7 SECC-2011 (Socio-Economic Caste Census) data.

WORLD MILITARY EXPENDITURE

Total global military expenditure increased by 0.7 per cent in real terms in 2021, to reach \$2113 billion, according to new data on global military spending published today by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

About: The five largest spenders in 2021 were the United States, China, India, the United Kingdom and Russia, together accounting for 62 per cent of expenditure. Even amid the economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, world military spending hit record levels. India's military spending of \$76.6 billion ranked third highest in the world. This was up by 0.9 per cent from 2020 and by 33 per cent from 2012. In a push to strengthen the indigenous arms industry, 64 per cent of capital outlays in the military budget of 2021 were earmarked for acquisitions of domestically produced arms. The USA and China alone accounted for 52 per cent. China, the world's second largest spender, allocated an estimated USD 293 billion to its military in 2021, an increase of 4.7 per cent from 2020 and 72 per cent from 2012.

ANANG TAL

Union Minister of Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal visited the mini lake Anang Tal (Mehrauli, New Delhi) created in 1052 A.D by the founder king of Delhi Maharaja Anang Pal Tomar.

About: He instructed to finish the work of cleaning of Anang Tal and declare it a National Monument immediately. The millennium old Anang Tal signifies the beginning of Delhi. Anang Tal has a strong Rajasthan connection as Maharaja Anang Pal is known as nana (maternal grandfather) of Prithviraj Chauhan whose fort Rai Pithora is on the list of ASI. Anangpal II, popularly known as Anangpal Tomar, was a ruler from the Tomar Rajput Dynasty. He is known to have established and populated Delhi in the 11th century.

MAIN AIRFRAME FATIGUE TEST (MAFT)

The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has commenced the Main Airframe Fatigue Test (MAFT) of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1 airframe at the Ground Test Centre of the Aircraft Research and Design Centre (ARDC), Bengaluru.

About: These tests will be carried out over a period of eight to nine years. The successful completion of the MAFT will qualify the LCA [Air Force] Mk1 airframe for its full service life. As per the military airworthiness requirements, the MAFT had to demonstrate the capability of the airframe to withstand four times the service life. The airframe is the same for the LCA Mk1 in service and the more capable LCA-Mk1A, 83 of which the IAF has contracted for. The Mk1A is expected to roll out in the next couple of months. The test plan and schedule for the MAFT has been jointly arrived at by the designers from the HAL and scientists from the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) in coordination with the Regional Centre for Military Airworthiness (RCMA), CEMILAC.