



11 February 2025

National and International News

<p>Klub-S Anti-Ship Cruise Missile</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has reached an agreement with Russia to acquire Klub-S anti-ship cruise missiles to enhance the operational capabilities of its submarine fleet. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Klub-S missile is part of the Kalibr missile family and is designed specifically for submarines. India plans to purchase 20 Klub-S missiles, with an estimated cost of USD 200 million. <p>Missile Capabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Klub-S missile has a 400 kg warhead and can target surface ships, submarines, and land targets up to 300 kilometers away. The missile includes a fire control system, vertical launcher units, and ammunition. It can adjust its altitude and course to navigate obstacles and avoid enemy countermeasures. It is effective in environments where the enemy uses heavy fire and electronic countermeasures. <p>Strategic Importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The addition of Klub-S missiles is intended to bolster India's diesel-electric submarine fleet, which includes Russian-origin Kilo-class submarines (also known as Sindhughosh-class). This will enhance the Navy's ability to contain potential threats and strengthen its underwater warfare capabilities. <p>Indian Submarine Fleet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sindhughosh-class (Kilo-class) submarines are equipped with torpedoes and missiles and are designed for long-range patrols. India operates several Sindhughosh-class submarines, but a few are set to retire in the next 2-3 years. <p>Russia-India Defence Ties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India remains one of the largest importers of Russian military equipment, sourcing 67% of its military hardware from Russia.
<p>Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act (CLNDA) 2010</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian government plans to amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act (CLNDA), 2010, and the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.



- This decision is expected to **energize American and French nuclear power companies**, whose projects have been stalled due to legal concerns for over 15 years.
- The announcement was made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during the Budget speech on February 1.

About:

- In 2010, India passed the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (CLND) Act to establish a legal framework for liability and compensation in case of a nuclear accident.
- The Act outlines the responsibilities of nuclear plant operators, suppliers, and the government, ensuring that affected individuals and communities receive fair and prompt compensation.

Key features of the law:**Liability of Nuclear Plant Operator:**

- The operator is primarily responsible for compensating victims in the event of a nuclear accident.
- The Act imposes strict liability, meaning the operator is liable for compensation regardless of negligence.

Financial Liability Limit:

- The operator's liability is capped at INR 1,500 crore.
- If the compensation exceeds this limit, the central government is liable for additional funds up to 300 million SDRs (approximately INR 3,300 crore).

Supplier Liability (Section 17):

- The operator can take legal action against the supplier if the incident results from supplier negligence or defective equipment/services.
- This provision encourages suppliers to prioritize safety and share liability.

Claims Commission:

- A Claims Commission is established to handle claims and ensure an efficient compensation process for victims.
- The Commission resolves disputes between operators, suppliers, and affected individuals or communities.

Time Limits for Claims:

- Claims for injury or death must be filed within 20 years of the incident.
- Claims for property damage must be filed within 10 years.


Insurance Requirement:

- Operators are mandated to obtain insurance or financial security to cover their liability, ensuring funds are available for compensation in case of a nuclear accident.



Cook Islands	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Zealand's Foreign Minister, Winston Peters, expressed "significant concern" over the Cook Islands' decision to sign a cooperation deal with China. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cook Islands is a self-governing nation with a "free association" pact with New Zealand. This agreement allows New Zealand to provide financial and defense support to the Cook Islands, whose citizens hold New Zealand citizenship. <p>Geographical Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cook Islands are located in the South Pacific Ocean, approximately 2,900 km northeast of New Zealand and 4,500 km south of Hawaii. They share close cultural ties with Tahiti, which is about 1,000 km to the east. <p>Island Group and Land Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cook Islands consist of 15 islands, spread across a vast ocean area of 2,200,000 km². The islands extend 1,400 km from north to south and about 700 km east to west, but the total land area is only around 230 km². Main Islands: The largest island is Rarotonga (67 km²), followed by Mangaia, Aitiu, Aitutaki, and Mauke. <p>Island Formation and Topography:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Islands: Primarily atolls (ring-shaped coral islands). Southern Islands: Mostly of volcanic origin, except for two small atolls. Highest Peak: Te Manga on Rarotonga (652 m) is the tallest point in the Cook Islands.
SPoCS Scheme	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, implements the Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS). These are set up based on proposals from various State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) interested in fostering scientific culture. <p>Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS): The Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS) is an initiative aimed at establishing Science Cities and Science Centres across all states in India, with the provision of adequate funding.</p> <p>The SPoCS scheme comprises three main components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Science City: A Science City is designed to offer an immersive,



	<p>experiment-based learning environment that encourages curiosity, nurtures creativity, and fosters a scientific mindset within the community.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Science Centres: These centres adopt a hands-on approach, providing visitors with numerous experimental opportunities to explore and understand scientific concepts on their own. 3. Innovation Hubs: These hubs serve as platforms for innovation and the development of new ideas, acting as springboards for creative solutions and breakthroughs.
<p>Aero India 2025</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the India, iDEX, and Karnataka Pavilions at Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru on February 10, 2025. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aero India is a biennial air show and aviation exhibition held in Bengaluru, organized by the Defence Exhibition Organisation, Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence. ● The 15th edition of Aero India 2025, Asia's biggest aero show, will serve as a platform for forging partnerships between Indian and foreign firms, accelerating indigenisation in the global aerospace value chain. ● The event will be held from February 10-14 at Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) is the flagship initiative of the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, launched by the Prime Minister in 2018. ● The first Aero India show was held at Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru, in 1996, organized by the Defence Exhibition Organisation, Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.
<p>INS TUSHIL</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● INS Tushil, during her maiden voyage around the West Coast of Africa, arrived at Port Victoria, Seychelles, on 07 Feb 2025 for an operational turnaround. <p>India-Seychelles Bilateral Relations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Historic Ties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ India established diplomatic ties with Seychelles post-independence in 1976. ○ INS Nilgiri participated in Seychelles' Independence Day celebrations on 29 June 1976. ● Significance of the Visit:



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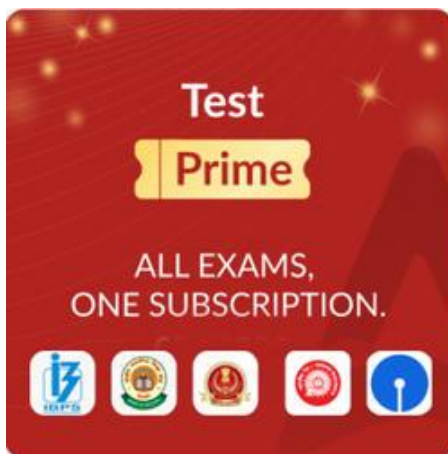
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- Strengthens India-Seychelles strategic partnership in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
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