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United Nation Security Council (UNSC)

- The **United Nation Security Council (UNSC)** got five new non-permanent members (**Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates**).
- Estonia, Niger, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Vietnam finished their terms recently.
- Albania is joining for the first time while Brazil is taking an 11th turn. Gabon and Ghana each have been on the council three times before and the UAE once.

Facts about UNSC

- **Formation:** 24 October 1945
- **Headquarter:** New York, USA
- **Membership:** 15 countries
- **Permanent members:** 5 (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States)
- **Non-permanent members:** 10 including India



Source: Indian Express

Rock Museum

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's first unique **Open "Rock" Museum** and later addressed the Hyderabad Scientists at the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI).
- The Open Rock Museum, set up with the aim to educate and enlighten the masses about several lesser known facts, displays around 35 different types of rocks from different parts of India with ages ranging from 3.3 Billion years to around 55 Million years of the Earth's history.
- These rocks also represent the deepest part of the earth up to 175 kms of distance from the surface of the earth.
- Dr Jitendra Singh also released **Earthquake Risk Maps** of Lucknow and Dehradun Cities.
- CSIR-NGRI has made earthquake risk maps for Lucknow and Dehradun cities which are vulnerable for future earthquakes in the Indo-Gangetic plains area.



Source: PIB

Green Energy Corridor Phase-II

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, approved the scheme on **Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II for Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS)** for addition of approximately 10,750 circuit kilometres of transmission lines and approx. 27,500 MegaVolt-Amperes (MVA) transformation capacity of substations.
- The scheme will facilitate grid integration and power evacuation of approximately 20 GW of Renewable Energy (RE) power projects in seven States namely, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- The transmission systems will be created over a period of five year from Financial Year 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The scheme will help in achieving the target of 450 GW installed RE capacity by 2030.
- This scheme is in addition to GEC-Phase-I which is already under implementation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu for grid integration and power evacuation of approx. 24 GW of RE power and is expected to be completed by 2022.



Source: PIB

Jagannath Temple Act, 1954

- In a historic decision, the **Odisha** state cabinet approved amendments to the **Sri Jagannath Temple Act of 1954**, simplifying issues pertaining to land owned by the Jagannath Temple.
- In the year 1806, the then British government had issued regulations for management of the Jagannath temple which was referred to as the Juggernaut temple by the colonial rulers.
- Under these regulations, pilgrims who visited the temple were expected to pay taxes.
- Three years later, the powers of management of the temple were passed on to the King of Khordha while the colonial government continued to retain some control.

- It was only after India gained Independence that the state of Odisha formally introduced the Jagannath Temple Act in the year 1952, which came into effect in 1954.
- The Act contains provision on land rights of the temple, duties of the sevayat, administrative powers of the Shri Jagannath Temple Managing Committee, rights and privileges of the Raja of Puri and other persons connected with the management and administration of the temple.

Recent Amendments:

- The recent amendment approved by the state cabinet now decentralizes the power to settle land related issues of the temple.
- The cabinet has delegated power to temple administration and concerned officials for sale and lease of land in name of Jagannath temple.



Source: Indian Express
National Youth Festival

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Puducherry to inaugurate the **25th National Youth Festival** beginning on January 12.
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Thakur and Lt. Governor of Puducherry Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan unveiled the Logo and Mascot of the 25th National Youth Festival.
- More than 7,000 youth from across the country will take part in the events in Puducherry held in association with the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- **National Youth Festival** is organized by the Government of India every year in collaboration with one of the States from January 12th to 16th to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda i.e. 12th January.**



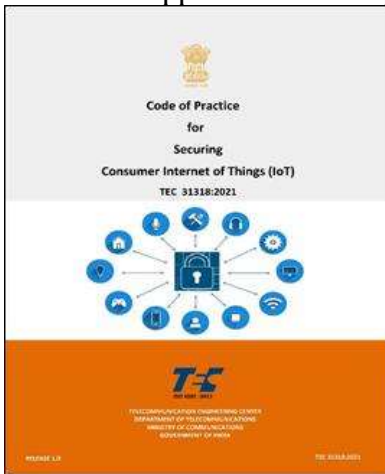
Source: Indian Express

Code of Practice for securing consumer Internet of Things (IoT)

- In order to secure Consumer Internet of Things (IoT) devices, Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), under Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, has released a report

“Code of Practice for Securing Consumer Internet of Things (IoT)” as a baseline requirement aligned with global standards and best practices.

- This report is intended for use by IoT device manufacturers, Service providers/ system integrators and application developers etc.



Source: PIB

Alka Mittal becomes first woman to head ONGC as CMD

- **Alka Mittal** has been appointed as the interim **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**, making her the first woman to head the country's largest oil and gas producer.
- Alka Mittal became the first woman to join ONGC's board on November 27, 2018.

About Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC):

- It is the largest government-owned-oil and gas exploration and production corporation in the country, and produces around 70% of India's crude oil (equivalent to around 57% of the country's total demand) and around 84% of its natural gas.
- In November 2010, the Government of India conferred the Maharatna status to ONGC.



Source: India Today

HarperCollins announces the release of new book 'Mamata: Beyond 2021'

- **HarperCollins** announced the release of the book titled '**Mamata: Beyond 2021**'.
- The book is written by Jayanta Ghosal, a political Journalist, and translated by Arunava Sinha, a fiction and non-fiction translator.
- The book successfully portrayed the works and achievements of Trinamool Congress supremo and West Bengal CM **Mamata Banerjee**.
- The book will be published on January 24, 2022.



Source: TOI

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