

Headlines at a Glance - 17th September 2021

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Australia, the U.K. and the US announce trilateral partnership AUKUS

The UK, US and Australia have announced a historic security pact in the Asia-Pacific, in what's seen as an effort to counter China. It will let Australia build nuclear-powered submarines for the first time, using technology provided by the US. The Aukus pact, which will also cover AI and other technologies, is one of the countries' biggest defence partnerships in decades, analysts say. China has condemned the agreement as "extremely irresponsible". The pact also created a row with France, which has now lost a deal with Australia to build 12 submarines. The pact will focus on military capability, separating it from the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing alliance which also includes New Zealand and Canada.

SOURCE: BBC News

Rajeev Chandrasekhar inaugurates five NIELIT Centres in NER

Union minister of state for electronics and information technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar who arrived in Imphal on an official visit on Thursday inaugurated three National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) centres of northeast states. The Union minister inaugurated one of the NIELIT centres in Manipur's Churachandpur district physically and the two other centres in Assam's Kokrajhar and Tezpur districts virtually. He further upgraded two existing centres, one at Imphal and the other at Aizawl of Mizoram through virtual modes. The NIELIT Centre, Churachandpur is the second centre of NIELIT in Manipur in a sprawling campus of about 4.13

acres of land provided by the state government. It has eight laboratories, two class rooms and has annual training capacities of 600 students. Prior to the programme in Churachandpur, the Union minister visited Rooman Tech PMKK, Imphal West.

SOURCE: The Indian Express

Union Cabinet clears decks for NARCL

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) would be operational soon, and it had to ensure resolving bad loans within five years, beyond which the guarantee to be issued by the government would expire. The Cabinet on Wednesday had approved a government guarantee of Rs 30,600 crore to be provided for the security receipts issued by the NARCL to buy bad loans of lenders. The NARCL will acquire stressed assets of about Rs 2 trillion in phases, and these soured loans would be transferred by paying 15 per cent cash to lenders and the remaining 85 per cent would be paid through security receipts.

SOURCE: Business Standard

Three Indians in Time Magazine's list of '100 most influential people of 2021'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Serum Institute of India (SII) CEO Adar Poonawalla have featured in Time Magazine's annual global list of most influential people. Time Magazine unveiled its 2021 global list of 'The 100 Most Influential People' on Wednesday. The list is divided into six categories — Icons, Pioneers, Titans, Artists, Leaders and Innovators. Apart from PM Narendra Modi, CM Mamata Banerjee and SII CEO Adar Poonawalla, the list includes US President Joe Biden, US Vice-President Kamala Harris, Chinese President Xi Jinping, former US President Donald Trump and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex — Prince Harry and Meghan. Interestingly, the name of the Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar also features in Time Magazine's list of 'Most Influential People of 2021'. Taliban founder Mullah Omar, too, featured on Time Magazine's cover in 2001.

SOURCE: India Today

SpaceX launches 4 amateurs on private Earth-circling trip

SpaceX, the American aerospace company founded by businessman Elon Musk, made history on Wednesday night (early morning India time) by launching the Inspiration4 mission with the world's first all-civilian crew into space. The four amateur astronauts are travelling to an altitude of 357 miles (575 kilometres) above the surface of the Earth, which is much further and deeper into space than the International Space Station (ISS), in the private flight that will encircle the Earth for three days. The event generated great interest across the world since it is expected to pave a new era of human spaceflight for average people, rather than just government-sponsored astronauts.

SOURCE: Hindustan Times