

Headlines at a Glance - 19th October 2021

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NITI Aayog launches Geospatial Energy Map of India

NITI Aayog on Monday launched a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based Energy Map of India. “NITI Aayog in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) Energy Map of India with the support of Energy Ministries of Government of India,” a statement issued by the Aayog said. The map attempts to identify and locate all primary and secondary sources of energy and their transportation/transmission networks to provide a comprehensive view of energy production and distribution in a country. It is a unique effort aimed at integrating energy data scattered across multiple organizations and presenting it in a consolidated, visually appealing graphical manner. It leverages the latest advancements in web-GIS technology and open-source software to make it interactive and user friendly. The Geospatial Energy Map of India will be useful in planning and making investment decisions. It will also aid in disaster management using available energy assets.

SOURCE: *Economic Times*

Delhi, Tamil Nadu lead India's transition to electric cooking with 17% adoption: CEEW Study

Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Assam, and Kerala are leading the transition towards electric cooking according to a study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). Residents in these states are choosing e-cooking devices such as induction cooktops, rice cookers, and microwave ovens over Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). The CEEW study found that penetration of e-cooking in urban households at 10.3 percent while that in rural homes was just 2.7 per cent. Overall, just 5 percent of households across the country have adopted this mode of cooking. Domestic (14.2 kg) LPG prices have risen to record highs across the country. A domestic cylinder now costs Rs.884.50 apiece in the national capital. These are the highest prices at which domestic LPG cylinders have been sold in the country. The CEEW study also found that 93 percent of e-Cooking adopters still rely on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as the primary cooking fuel and use eCooking devices as a backup.

SOURCE: *Business Standard*

Collective Security Treaty Organization nations begin drills near Afghan border

The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) member states have resolved to reinforce the Russia-led bloc's southern border with Afghanistan which would even hold military drills in a month. Following a summit in Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe, the leaders of the Russian-led CSTO announced the plan to enhance the security cooperation in the region including deployment of troops in Tajik-Afghan border. Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon, whose country presently holds the CSTO's rotating presidency, announced the move. CSTO's members include Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Belarus and Tajikistan. All leaders along with CSTO's secretary-general Stanislav Zas and Russian President Vladimir Putin participated in the meeting in Dushanbe.

SOURCE: *The Hindu*

Second edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2021 commences in New Delhi

The second edition of the Naval Commanders' Conference of 2021 commenced in New Delhi today. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the Naval Commanders during the inaugural session and interacted with them on matters relating to national security. The conference was attended by all Operational and Area Commanders of the Indian Navy to review major operational, materiel, logistics, Human Resource Development, training, and administrative activities.

SOURCE: *The Indian Express*