

Weekly Current Affairs PDF November 13 to November 19, 2022

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INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine, Russia extend Black Sea grain deal for 120 days

- Russia and Ukraine have agreed to extend a UN-brokered grain export deal for another 120 days, officials announced. World leaders praised the breakthrough for helping “avoid global food shortages” at a crucial time.
- Ukrainian Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said that the Black Sea grain deal between Ukraine and Russia will be extended for another 120 days.
- He said continuing the grain export agreement brokered by Turkey with the UN was “another important step in the global fight against the food crisis.”
- Russia’s Foreign Ministry also confirmed that the deal would be extended “without changes in terms of scope” to the current agreement.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the agreement “by all parties to continue the Black Sea Grain Initiative to facilitate the safe navigation of export of grain, foodstuffs and fertilizers from Ukraine.”
- Guterres also emphasized the necessity to remove remaining obstacles to export food and fertilizer from Russia. “Both agreements signed in Istanbul three months ago are essential to bring down the prices of food and fertilizer and avoid a global food crisis,” Guterres said.

NATIONAL

INS Trikand Participation in The Combined Maritime Forces Focused Operation - Sea Sword 2

- INS Trikand has participated in the Combined Maritime Forces led Operation “Sea Sword 2” in the Northwest Arabian Sea. The operation was held to prevent narcotics trade & stop smuggling entities from using the seas for their nefarious activities. Earlier, the 26th edition of the multinational maritime exercise “MALABAR 22” culminated in Japan on November 15th.
- This edition also marked the 30th anniversary of the exercise and was hosted by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF). This effort is part of the Indian Navy’s commitment to ensuring the safety of the seas and collective security in the region as espoused by the SAGAR vision of the Honourable Prime Minister of India.
- The ship participated with other multinational forces and regional partner navies to counter terrorism, prevent narcotics trade and stop smuggling entities from using the seas for their nefarious activities. The Indian Navy’s long range maritime patrol aircraft also participated in the operation and provided air support.

SPORTS

Vice president Dhankhar to attend FIFA world cup inauguration in Qatar

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will attend the FIFA World Cup opening ceremony in Qatar. The two-day visit is as per the invitation of the ruler of Qatar, Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. The Ministry of External Affairs stated that Dhankhar will visit Qatar on November 20-21.

- After attending the opening ceremony of the World Cup, he will interact with the Indian diaspora in Qatar. The Ministry of External Affairs explained that it should be an opportunity to acknowledge the role and support played by Indians in the World Cup. The Ministry said that India-Qatar relations are strong in the fields of trade, energy, security, health, culture, education and defence.
- 2023 will mark 50 years of India-Qatar diplomatic relations. Qatar plays a major role in India's energy sector. India is a major partner in the food security of the Gulf countries.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India's first privately built rocket, Vikram-S, launched by ISRO

- Vikram-S Rocket, India's first privately developed rocket launched from the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) at the Sriharikota launchpad. The launch of Vikram-S Rocket by ISRO is a historic moment.
- The Vikram-S Rocket is developed by Hyderabad-based start-up Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited, and it is a 6-meter tall and hits a peak altitude of 89.5 kilometers. After five minutes of launch, the Vikram-S Rocket splashed into the Bay of Bengal. The mission was titled Prarambh.
- The Vikram-S Rocket is a single-stage solid fuelled, sub-orbital rocket developed over two years by incorporating advanced technologies that include carbon composite structures and 3D printer components.
- The Vikram-S Rocket is equipped with a gross lift-off mass of 545kg, and a payload mass of 80kg. Vikram-S carried three customer payloads which will map the measurement and validation of certain flight parameters and payload integration processes.
- The Skyroot firm was launched in June 2018 by two engineers Pawan Kumar Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka. The firm aims to open space for all, he is pushing the boundaries of today's techno. It is working towards a future where space becomes a part of our lives and claims that such a transition will transform humankind like never before.
- Initially, Skyroot built ticket components to send satellites into space. After the Indian government opened the sector to private firms, it promptly signed up with ISRO, which allows the such players to use the agency's launching facilities. The start-up formally entered the space and technology industry with an agreement with ISRO in September 2011.

OBITURY

Veteran Punjabi actress Daljeet kaur khangura passed away

- Daljeet Kaur, a veteran actor well-known for her lead roles in several superhit Punjabi movies, died in Punjab's Ludhiana district on Thursday.
- The 69-year-old was suffering from brain tumour for the past three years and was in a deep coma for the last one year, according to her cousin, Harinder Singh Khangura.
- Daljeet was one of the most famous faces of Bollywood. She took a break from acting after she lost her husband Harminder Singh Deol in a tragic road accident. After several years, in 2001, she decided to step back into the industry, and it didn't take long before she again turned everyone's favourite with her work.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Toilet Day 2022: 19th November

- The United Nations observes World Toilet Day on November 19 annually. The main aim is to raise public awareness of broader sanitation systems such as wastewater treatment, stormwater management, and hand washing. The 2022 campaign 'Making the invisible visible' explores how inadequate sanitation systems spread human waste into rivers, lakes and soil, polluting underground water resources.
- The central message of World Toilet Day 2022 is that safely managed sanitation protects groundwater from human waste pollution. Currently, the world is seriously off track to meet the promise of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.2: to ensure safe toilets for all by 2030.
- The 2022 theme is 'Making the Invisible Visible' and explores how inadequate sanitation systems spread human waste into rivers, lakes and soil, polluting underground water resources.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chairs first session on 'Global Trends in Terrorist Financing and Terrorism' theme of the 3rd 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference in New Delhi

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the first session of the 3rd 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference on 'Global Trends in Terrorist Financing and Terrorism' theme in New Delhi today. In his opening address, the Union Home Minister said that terrorism is, undoubtedly, the most serious threat to global peace and security, but, the financing of terrorism is more dangerous than terrorism itself, because the 'Means and Methods' of terrorism are nurtured from such funding. Furthermore, the financing of terrorism weakens the economy of countries of the world.
- Shri Amit Shah said that India condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and we believe that no reason can justify an act, such as taking innocent lives. While expressing his sympathy for the victims of terrorist attacks all over the world, he said that we should never compromise with this evil.
- Union Home Minister said that India has been a victim of terrorism for several decades, which is sponsored from across the border. He said that Indian security forces and civilians have had to deal with incidents of extremely serious terrorist violence perpetrated in a sustained and coordinated manner. Shri Shah said that the international community has a collective approach that terrorism must be condemned in all its forms, but, the forms and manifestations of terrorism are continuously evolving due to technological revolution.
- He said that today, terrorists and terrorist groups understand the nuances of modern weapons & information technology, and the dynamics of the cyber & financial space very well, and use them. He said that this transformation of terrorism from "Dynamite to Metaverse" and "AK-47 to Virtual Assets" is definitely a matter of concern for the countries of the world, and, we all have to work together to formulate a common strategy against it.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

NTPC Quality Control Team from Unchahar ABHYUDAYA received the "GOLD" award

- NTPC's QC Team from Unchahar ABHYUDAYA has won the "GOLD" award in the 47th International Convention on Quality Control Circle (ICQCC-2022). The convention is being held

from 15th-18th November in Jakarta. The theme for ICQCC-2022 was “Built Back Better through Quality Efforts”. NTPC QC Team presented on “Frequent Choking of Collecting tanks of AHP-IV”.

- Shri Reyaz Ahamad (Facilitator), Shri Mahesh Chandra, Shri Virendra Kumar Yadav and Shri Laxmi Kant worked relentlessly towards providing unique, pragmatic, and quality solutions to the problem at hand.
- In March 2022, NTPC had been declared the “Dream Employer of the Year” at the 30th Session of the World HRD Congress. NTPC’s efforts to create a future-ready workforce were recognized when NTPC was selected as a 2022 ATD BEST award winner by The Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA. The awards and recognitions are a testimony that people practices at NTPC are at par with the best companies in the world.

BOOKS & AUTHOR

A Book *Nalanda until meet again* launched by Ruskin Bond

- Gautaam Borah, a senior management professional and the author of the widely acclaimed book ‘Monetising Innovation’, launches his new book ‘Nalanada – Until we meet again’ on November 13, 2022.
- The book was launched by legendary writer Ruskin Bond. With his new book, Gautaam delivers a movie like experience that includes action, adventure, romance, passion, grit & intuition and mystery. The book will lead you to travel through all these in a jaw dropping race.
- ‘Nalanda- until we meet again’ is a gripping story of romance, vengeance, and an age-old mystery. It’s a story of Neil and Aanchal. Neil meets Aanchal at the iconic University of Oxford and they fall in love. Back in India, Aanchal joins an NGO and Neil a telecom company. Neil is propelled into a ruthless journey when he becomes a victim of corporate politics. Aanchal’s politician father charts a different path for her and she disappears.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Maximum tenure of PSU banks' MD and CEO raised to 10 years

- Government has decided to provide longer tenure to Managing Director and other whole-time directors of the public sector banks. Now the appointment can be made initially for up to 5 years, which can be extended for the 5 more years.
- The amendment would be called Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Scheme, 2022.
- Earlier, the MD or executive director of a public sector undertaking (PSU) bank was eligible for a maximum tenure of 5 years or 60 years whichever was earlier. This is also applicable for whole-time directors of all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). Now, The term for the appointment has been extended to 10 years, from the earlier 5 years, subject to superannuation age of 60 years, as per government notification of 17 November.
- A whole-time director, including the managing director, shall devote his whole time to the affairs of the nationalised bank and shall hold office for such initial term not exceeding five years and extendable up to a total period, including the initial term, not exceeding 10 years, as the central government may, after consultation with the Reserve Bank, specify and shall be eligible for re-appointment,” the notification said.

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NATIONAL

Uttar Pradesh adds most number of new companies post Covid

- UP has added the most number of new companies after Maharashtra since the outbreak of Covid-19, beating industrial hubs such as Delhi, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, data combined by the corporate affairs ministry (MCA) show.
- Uttar Pradesh is the third ranked state in terms of number of active companies behind Maharashtra and Delhi. Uttar Pradesh is home to 1.08 lakh active companies as of September end while Maharashtra and Delhi have 3 lakh and 2.2 lakh active companies respectively.
- Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are at fourth and fifth with 1.04 lakh and 99,038 active companies respectively.
- In the post-pandemic phase, UP has overtaken Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Uttar Pradesh added 30,000 companies in the past three years, which helped it emerge the third state in terms of number of active companies behind only Maharashtra and Delhi. Maharashtra on the other hand added 60,000 new companies in the past three years and continues to be on the top. Maharashtra's dominance comes largely from the fact that its capital, Mumbai is the financial capital of India and serves as a hub for several mid-size and big companies.

Government of India has decided to abolish the National Anti-profiteering Authority

- National Anti-profiteering Authority(NAA) is the anti-profiteering watchdog of GST and it is all set to be subsumed into the Competition Commission of India (CCI)
- NAA's investigation arm will continue to function in some form under CCI. The official said that the move will reduce the multiplicity of regulators as CCI can handle cases independently. The plan is to transfer cases to CCI after NAA's term ends.
- NAA's role is to make sure that the benefit of tax rate reduction reaches the consumer immediately. This has been the role of NAA primarily because the GST council has been rejigging the rates in the last five years. NAA has little to do when rates go up.
- Authorities are still receiving several complaints about the early years of GST, saying that the benefit of the input tax credit has not been fully passed on to consumers. Sectors like eateries, cinemas, real estate, fast-moving consumer goods, etc., have faced NAA's scrutiny the most. In many cases, the regulator ordered the business to return the allegedly overcharged amounts to the consumer.
- The National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) was established under section 171 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017. The NAA was set up to monitor and to oversee whether the reduction or benefit of input tax credit is reaching the recipient by way of appropriate reduction in prices.

SPORTS

Achanta Sharath Kamal becomes first Indian to be elected in ITTF's Athletes' Commission

- Star Indian paddler Achanta Sharath Kamal has become the first player from India to get elected in the Athletes' Commission of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF). The online elections took place between 7 to 13 November 2022. 10 athletes were elected for the ITTF Athletes' Commission for a four-year term from 2022 to 2026. Eight athletes were elected from Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, North America, and Oceania region and two were highest-voted para-athletes.
- Amongst all elected players Sharath Kamal got the second highest votes after 2012 table tennis World Cup silver medallist Elizabeta Samara of Romania. Sharath Kamal was also recently elected as the member of the Athletes' Commission of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). Sharath has already been selected for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, the country's highest sports recognition this year. He also received the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian honour, in 2019.

OBITURY

Gulam Abbas Moontasir, a legend of Indian basketball, dies aged 80

- The former India basketball captain and Arjuna awardee, Gulam Abbas Moontasir, passed away in Mumbai. He was born in Mumbai in 1942. He started playing in Nagpada by the American missionaries, later he started getting inclined towards basketball. From Nagpada Basketball Association to the International stage, he has always been an aggressive player with a unique physical style on the court.
- His basketball debut came in 1960 in an exhibition game against Australia. He captained the national team in the 1969 and 1975 Asian Basketball Championships in Bangkok. He was part of the Indian team at the 1970 Asian Games, which finished sixth after topping a group that also contained China, Thailand and Malaysia. In the same year, Muntasir was selected in the Asian All-Star team and received the Arjuna Award, the first basketball player to receive this honour. He was suspended for three years due to constant bickering with referees and officials in the country. He was also among the country's sports icons who shot for the 1987 film 'Freedom Run' to promote national integration.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

IFS Officer Bandaru Wilsonbabu Appointed as Ambassador of India to the Union of Comoros

- Bandaru Wilsonbabu, presently the Indian ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar has been concurrently accredited as the next ambassador to the Union of Comoros, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.
- An Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer from the 2004 batch, Wilsonbabu earlier served as the joint secretary in the Eurasia division. Ties between India and Comoros have grown manifold during the past three years.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2022

- World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) runs from 18 to 24 November every year. It's an international initiative to increase awareness of the growing problem of resistance to antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines. The purpose of the week is to increase awareness of global antimicrobial resistance, encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policymakers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.
- This year, the theme of WAAW is "Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together." World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) is a global campaign that is celebrated annually to improve awareness and understanding of AMR and encourage best practices among the public, One Health stakeholders and policymakers, who all play a critical role in reducing the further emergence and spread of AMR.

Naturopathy Day: 18th November 2022

- National Naturopathy Day is observed in India every year on November 18th, to promote positive mental and physical health through drug-free therapy. National Naturopathy Day was established on November 18th 2018 by the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy), Government of India. On November 18th 1945, Mahatma Gandhi became the Chairman of the All India Nature Cure Foundation Trust and signed the agreement aimed at making the benefits of Nature Cure available to all classes of people, therefore, this day was chosen to be observed as National Naturopathy Day.
- Central Council for Research in yoga and naturopathy is organizing the 5th Naturopathy day at World peace dome MIT Art, Design and Technology University campus, Pune. On this Occasion an International Conference on Yoga and Naturopathy is being organized by CCRYN. This conference will see renowned speakers in the field of naturopathy and from "World Naturopathic Federation". The Theme for this year's

event is “Naturopathy: an Integrative medicine”. In this conference we will learn about developments in the field of naturopathy from eminent researchers and practitioners in relation to education, research, integrative medicine, public health in addition to exploring newer avenues and areas in naturopathy.

Indian Army Celebrates 242nd Corps of Engineers Day

- Indian Army is celebrating the 242nd Corps of Engineers Day on 18th November. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande have conveyed their best wishes to all ranks of the Corps of Engineers on the occasion. On the occasion of Corps day, Engineer-in-Chief and Senior Colonel Commandant of the Corps of Engineers Lt Gen Harpal Singh has called upon the Corps to put in bigger efforts to be prepared for the future challenges and rededicate towards being a reliable, versatile and omnipresent arm of the Army.
- The Corps of Engineers provides combat engineering support, develops infrastructure for armed forces and other defence organisations and maintains connectivity along our vast borders besides providing succour to populace during natural disasters. These tasks are executed through four pillars of the Corps – Combat Engineers, Military Engineer Service, Border Road Organisation and Military Survey.
- The Corps of Engineers has three groups, i.e. Madras Sappers, Bengal Sappers and Bombay Sappers which were amalgamated into the Corps on 18 Nov 1932. Since its inception, history is replete with colossal exemplary contributions of the Corps of Engineers both in war and peace.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

SBI gets Euro 150 mn loan from German KfW for solar projects

- State Bank of India has signed a 150 million euro (Rs 1,240 crore) loan agreement with the German development bank KfW for funding solar projects.
- The long-term loan, under the Indo-German solar partnership, will facilitate new and upcoming capacities in the solar sector and further contribute to the country’s goals announced during the COP26.
- In 2015, New Delhi and Berlin had signed a memorandum of understanding to foster solar energy through technical as well as financial cooperation. Through this agreement, Germany had expressed its willingness to provide the concessional loans to India in the range of 1 billion euros through KfW.
- The successful closure of the phase-1 under the solar partnership- promotion of solar/PV between SBI and KfW, paves the way for the current phase-2 in our partnership with this German lender, Ashwini Tewari, a managing director at SBI said. With this facility, he added, the bank has taken another step towards sustainable financing arrangements for meeting the nation’s renewable capacity goals and upholding environmental and social standards.

Wipro to set up European Works Council for employees

- IT company Wipro has reached an agreement with employee representatives on setting up a European Works Council, the company said. The creation of Wipro’s EWC is the first to be established by an Indian headquartered company.
- Senior vice president & CHRO, Wipro Europe stated: “Setting up the EWC strengthens the already successful cooperation with employee representations in many European countries. Wipro aims to provide the best employee experience and create an inclusive environment that welcomes everyone and nurtures an overall sense of belonging. The EWC will help us in getting even better as we assimilate employee perspectives on a consistent basis. It also demonstrates that Wipro is applying and adopting European employment standards as a responsible global employer.”
- Wipro’s EWC is the first to be established by an Indian headquartered company, and builds upon a number of years of successful, constructive working with Works Councils at local and national level across several European countries, including Germany, the Netherlands, France, Sweden and Finland. The creation of an EWC follows a request by employees under an EU directive establishing the opportunity in

companies with more than 1,000 employees across multiple European locations. Wipro's EWC agreement was successfully negotiated with employee representatives from 13 different countries.

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INTERNATIONAL

India-Russia-Iran plan trilateral meet on Afghanistan on sidelines of Moscow format meet

- India participated in the fourth Meeting of the Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan, which was held in Moscow on November 16. Special envoys and senior officials from Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan also participated in the meeting.
- "During the meeting, the participants discussed issues related to Afghanistan, including the current humanitarian situation and the ongoing efforts of various stakeholders to provide assistance, intra-Afghan talks, formation of an inclusive and representative government, efforts to counter threats of terrorism and ensuring regional security," Ministry of External Affairs said.
- It was introduced in 2017 on the basis of the six-party mechanism for consultations among special representatives from Russia, Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, Iran and India.
- The Moscow format meeting's main objective is to facilitate the national reconciliation process in Afghanistan and secure peace in that country as soon as possible.
- Indian delegation and Taliban officials had come face-to-face for the first time at the Moscow Format meeting in Russia in 2021. JP Singh, the joint secretary who heads the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran desk in the external affairs ministry, had led the Indian delegation at the Moscow Format.

NATIONAL

India becomes the world's second largest producer of steel

- India has emerged as the second-largest producer of crude steel by replacing Japan. The biggest steel producing country is currently China, which accounted for 57% of world steel production.
- In order to support the domestic steel industry, the Government of India has notified the National Steel Policy, 2017, and the Policy for Providing Preference to Domestically Manufactured Iron and Steel (DMI & SP) in the case of state procurement. These policies have helped create a favorable environment to improve domestic production and consumption of steel.
- The Government has also issued quality control orders, prohibiting the manufacturing and import of cheap and substandard quality of steel. In addition, India has liberalised the coal mining sector which stands to greatly benefit the steel industry.
- India has also been inviting foreign entities to invest in the steel sector as India's steel demand is expected to rise by 7.2 per cent in 2019-20. Going ahead, the demand growth for steel is expected to remain unchanged at 5.2 per cent in 2022-23.

Three Indian cities emerges as top data centre markets in APAC region, says industry report

- According to a report by Knight Frank, Indian cities, namely – Hyderabad, Chennai and New Delhi, have emerged as three of the top data centre markets in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.

- The report further noted that the data centre industry in India has been on a high growth trajectory, partly driven by government policies, including easier access to credit and other incentives to boost data centre investment.
- Commenting on the report, Fred Fitzalan Howard, data centre lead, APAC, Knight Frank, said, “The insight from our latest report reinforces APAC’s position as the most exciting market in the global data centre industry. More businesses are speeding up their digital transformations, and the demand for cloud services and lower latency has proliferated, resulting in cloud providers sourcing colocation and self-build facilities in previously overlooked cities. As these secondary cities continue to establish themselves as data centre locations, opportunities will continue to arise across the mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and development space.”

SPORTS

Paris 2024 Olympic Games: The meaning behind the mascot

- The Phrygian cap, the symbol of the French republic but wearing sneakers as a nod to the present, was unveiled as the mascot for the 2024 Paris Olympics. The Olympic Phryge ((pronounced fri-jee-uhs) is a bit smaller, the Paralympic Phryge is a bit slimmer and has a blade on his right leg because it is a Phryge with an impairment.
- The Paralympic mascot is different in that one of the legs is a runner’s blade. The Paris Games organisers defended the fact that the toy replicas of the mascot are almost all made in China. One of the mascot’s eyes is blue and one of the two is draped in two ribbons in the colours of the French flag, in the style of a cockade, or knot of ribbons, which was another symbol of republicanism during the Revolution.
- The mascots were unveiled in a press conference in Paris by Paris 2024 president Tony Estanguet, Beijing 2008 wheelchair tennis men’s doubles champion Michael Jeremiasz and Gwladys Epangue, a bronze medallist in taekwondo from Beijing 2008.

SCIENCE & TEHNOLOGY

NASA's next-generation Artemis mission heads to moon on debut test flight

- The United States space agency NASA has launched its Artemis-1 mission from Kennedy Space Centre, Florida. About eight minutes after launch, the core stage’s engines cut off and the core stage separated from the rest of the rocket. After this, the Orion spacecraft was propelled by the Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage (ICPS). NASA also deployed the four solar arrays of the Orion spacecraft. After completing “translunar injection”, Orion separated itself from the ICPS and is now on its way to lunar orbit.
- For the first time in 50 years since the end of the Apollo program, the launch of Artemis 1 is an ambitious US mission to return astronauts to the surface of the Moon.
- The Artemis 1 launch will also be the first flight of NASA’s 21st century moon-exploration program.
- With Artemis 1 on the surface of the Moon, NASA aims to demonstrate new technologies, business approaches and capabilities that are essential for future explorations, including Mars. The launch aims to further aid in the study of the Moon, its origin and history.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Govt appoints Arvind Virmani as full-time member of NITI Aayog

- Former Chief Economic Advisor, Arvind Virmani has been appointed as a full time member of NITI Aayog. The other existing Members of NITI Aayog are VK Saraswat, Ramesh Chand and VK Paul. While Suman Bery is the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Parameswaran is the incumbent CEO of the think tank. The Prime Minister has approved the appointment of Shri Arvind Virmani, Founder, Chairman, Foundation for Economic Growth & Welfare as Full-Time Member, NITI Aayog with immediate effect and until further orders, on the same terms and conditions as are applicable to Full-Time Members of NITI Aayog.
- Virmani was Chief Economic Advisor in the Finance Ministry from 2007-09. He was Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) till end 2012. He served as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on monetary policy from February 2013 to August 2016.

SUMMIT'S & MOU'S

NCW launches Digital Shakti 4.0 for making women digitally skilled

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) launched the fourth phase of the Digital Shakti Campaign, a pan-India project on digitally empowering and skilling women and girls in cyberspace.
- Digital Shakti started in June 2018 to help women across the nation to raise the awareness level on the digital front, to build resilience, and fight cyber-crime in the most effective ways.
- The Digital Shakti 4.0 is focused on making women digitally skilled and aware to stand-up against any illegal/inappropriate activity online.
- It is helping women in reporting & redressal mechanisms, data privacy and usage of technology for their benefits.
- In line with its commitment to creating safe spaces for women and girls online, Digital Shakti 4.0 is focused on making women digitally skilled and aware of standing up against any illegal/inappropriate activity online. NCW launched it in collaboration with CyberPeace Foundation and Meta, said by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

RANKING

India ranks high in climate protection, bags 8th position in Climate Change Performance Index

- The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2023 released which was published by three environmental non-governmental organizations viz. Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute and the Climate Action Network (CAN) International. India rose two spots to rank eighth out of 63 countries in the Climate Change Performance Index 2023 (CCPI). In the Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Use categories, the country was rated “high”. In the Climate Policy and Renewable Energy categories, it earned a “medium” rating.
- The CCPI evaluates 59 countries and the European Union, which together generate over 90 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Using standardised criteria, the CCPI looks at four categories, with 14 indicators: Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Renewable Energy, Energy Use, and Climate Policy. In 2022 and 2021, India stood in the 10th spot. In 2020, it ranked ninth on the list. Since signing the Paris Agreement in 2015, India has updated its Nationally Determined

Contribution (NDC). At the COP26 Summit in Glasgow, the country announced its commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2070.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

5G expected to power up to 2% of GDP by 2030: Report

- The launch of 5G services will strengthen India's position as an economic and technology powerhouse globally and is expected to boost 2% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), amounting to approximately \$180 billion by 2030, according to a new report by industry body Nasscom.
- The report titled, "5G — Unfolding India's era of digital convergence" was released on the side lines of Nasscom Tech Innovation Conclave (NTIC) 2022, added that "5G is expected to create new value through hyper-connectivity and become a catalyst for digital transformation across industries".
- "For India, 5G provides an opportunity for industries to augment the pace of digitisation at the grassroots level and for consumers to gain with economies of scale," said Debjani Ghosh, president, Nasscom. However, she said that "achieving this will require effective ecosystem collaboration between telcos, OEMs, infrastructure companies, and the government to increase consumer adoption and market readiness to unlock large-scale benefits of 5G".
- Sectors such as healthcare, energy and utilities, manufacturing, and retail are expected to benefit the most from large-scale 5G adoption. For example, certain aspects such as adequate infrastructure upgradation and fiberisation for 5G deployment, along with network densification need to be addressed to realise the utmost benefit of the technology across industries, the report noted.

RBI shortlists five banks to work on its digital currency pilot project

- State bank Of India(SBI), ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank, HDFC Bank and Yes Bank are among a shortlist of at least five lenders that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has roped in to work on the retail pilot project of the central bank digital currency (CBDC).
- The report said, citing people familiar with the matter, that the Reserve Bank of India could add more banks to run the pilot, which is expected to launch soon. "Five banks have been shortlisted to run the pilot along with the help of NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) and RBI. Some customer and merchant accounts will be chosen to roll out the retail digital rupee pilot soon,"
- The RBI is working on two fronts to test the central bank digital currency (CBDC): one for the wholesale market, for which a pilot project is already underway, and the other for retail (CBDC-R).

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NATIONAL

THIRD EDITION OF LARGEST NATIONWIDE COASTAL DEFENCE EXERCISE 'SEA VIGIL-22' COMMENCES

- The third edition of the 'Pan-India' Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-22' will be conducted from 15 to 16 November 2022. This National Level Coastal Defence Exercise was conceptualized in

2018 to validate various measures that have been instituted towards enhancing maritime security since '26/11'.

- Coastal Security being a major sub-set of Coastal Defence construct, the concept of 'Sea Vigil' is to activate the Coastal Security apparatus across India and assess the overarching Coastal Defence mechanism.
- The exercise will be undertaken along the entire 7516 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India and will involve all the Coastal States and Union territories along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.
- The exercise is being conducted by the Indian Navy in coordination with the Coast Guard and other ministries entrusted with the task of maritime activities.
- The scale and conceptual expanse of the exercise are unprecedented in terms of the geographical extent, the number of stakeholders involved, the number of units participating, and in terms of the objectives to be met.

SPORTS

Switzerland beat Australia to win first Billie Jean King Cup title

- Switzerland won their first Billie Jean King Cup title on Sunday after Belinda Bencic beat Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic in straight sets in the second match of the finals to give them an unassailable 2-0 lead.
- Jil Teichmann had earlier prevailed 6-3 4-6 6-3 over Storm Sanders in a thrilling contest to put Switzerland ahead before Olympic champion Bencic saw off Tomljanovic 6-2 6-1 to clinch the best-of-three contest.
- The teams also clashed in the semi-finals of last year's event in Prague, where Teichmann overcame Sanders and Bencic defeated Tomljanovic before Switzerland went on to finish runners-up to Russia.
- Olympic champion Bencic, who had not dropped a set all week, was in complete control against Tomljanovic and delivered a commanding performance, swiftly wrapping up victory in an hour and 15 minutes.
- In a brilliant battle between two left handers, Teichmann dominated affairs in the first set but Sanders, struggling with a leg injury and needing courtside treatment, twice rallied from a break down in the second in a stirring revival.

Asian Airgun Championship: India bags 4 more Gold medals in Korea, taking total tally of yellow metal to 17

- India won four more Gold medal in air pistol events to take their gold tally to 17 in the Asian Airgun Championship in at Daegu in Korea yesterday. Shiva Narwal won the men's 10m air pistol, while Sagar Dangi picked up the junior men's gold.
- Shiva got the better of experienced Korean Park Daehun in the men's air pistol final, taking him down 17-13 in a close contest. He also had the Korean's number in the ranking round where he topped with 253.7. Park was second with 250.2.
- In addition, both the men's and women's youth teams also won their respective competitions to make it another successful day for India.
- India's Vijayveer Sidhu also picked up a bronze in the event, after he finished the ranking round in third place with 248.0.

- In the junior men's air pistol, it was a 1-2 finish for India, as Sagar Dangi overcame Samrat Rana 17-13 to claim gold.
- India's third gold came in the men' 10m air pistol Youth event, when the trio of Sandeep Bishnoi, Sahil and Amit Sharma beat a Korean team 16-8 in the gold medal clash.

Mary Kom, PV Sindhu, Mirabai Chanu and Gagan Narang elected in IOA Athletes Commission

- Olympic medallists MC Mary Kom, PV Sindhu, Mirabai Chanu and Gagan Narang were among 10 eminent sportspersons elected as members of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) Athletes Commission. All the 10 elected members of the apex body, five men and as many women, won unopposed in the polls. Under the new constitution of the Indian Olympic Association which was adopted on November 10, the athletes commission is to have equal representation of male and female members.
- Winter Olympian Shiva Keshavan, table tennis player Sharath Kamal, women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, fencer Bhavani Devi, rower Bajrang Lal and former shot putter Om Prakash Singh Karhana are the other six members of the elected panel.
- All the 10 members, out of which five are female, are Olympians. Keshavan is the only Winter Olympian. The immediate task of the Athletes Commission would be to identify eight Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) who would then be voting members of the IOA's General Assembly. One of the criteria is that the sportsperson should have retired from the sport, and should have won a medal in the Olympics, Asian Games or Commonwealth Games.

OBITURY

Mehran Karimi Nasseri, Who Inspired 'The Terminal,' Dies in Paris Airport

- An Iranian refugee, Mehran Karimi Nasseri, who lived for 18 years in Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris and whose intriguing tale inspired the 2004 Steven Spielberg film "The Terminal," passed away in that same airport. The cause of death, in Terminal 2F, was a heart attack, a representative for the airport. His exact age was not immediately known, but he was in his late 70s.
- His days were punctuated by the rhythm of flights and the presence of travelers, whose numbers swelled in the morning and dwindled at night, leaving him mostly alone to sleep on his preferred curved bench. Airport employees would routinely give him their meal coupons, and flight attendants would give him toiletries left over by first-class passengers. The New York Times Magazine noted in a 2003 profile of Mr. Nasseri that he seemed "both settled — and ready to go."

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Press Day 2022: 16th November

- National Press Day is observed on November 16 every year to acknowledge and honour the Press Council of India (PCI). The day marks the presence of an independent and responsible press in the country. The Press Council of India also examines the quality of reportage of the Indian press and keeps a check on journalistic activities.
- Independent Press is often called the voice of the voiceless, a connecting link between the all-powerful rulers to the downtrodden ruled. It brings out the ills and malaise of the system and helps the government find the solutions to these, in the process strengthening the values of the

democratic system of governance. No wonder why it's called one of the four pillars of a strong democracy, and the only one where commoners directly participate. The other 3 are the Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary – a gang of select few.

International Day for Tolerance 2022: 16th November

- International Day for Tolerance is observed on November 16 every year with an aim to build tolerance among diverse cultures and spread the message that tolerance is an integral part of society. The day is specifically recognized to educate people about the harmful consequences of intolerant society and its impact on the nation.
- The significance of celebrating the day is to raise awareness about the tolerance and its impact on cultures and socio-economic groups. Tolerance should be promoted on both personal as well as professional level to make the world a better place to live. Tolerance and non-violence are essential criteria for cohabitation. The goal of the day is to get people to appreciate the beauty of many viewpoints, ethnicities, faiths, and ideologies while also recognising the cultural diversity that exists. The main goals of this global movement are to promote the behaviour of respecting others' rights and freedoms and to inform people about the negative repercussions of intolerance.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

LeadIT Summit 2022 hosted by India and Sweden at COP27, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

- India and Sweden hosted the LeadIT Summit, on the sidelines of COP27 at Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt. The Leadership for Industry Transition- LeadIT initiative focuses on low carbon transition of the hard to abate industrial sector.
- Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav emphasised that co-development is the only option to meet the targets that the world has taken for itself and without it, low carbon transition could be delayed by decades. He said, the low carbon transition of the industrial sector will not only contribute towards the reduction in required greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Minister said, it has several co-benefits that include increasing resilience to changes in climate, enhanced energy security, innovation, socio-economic development and job creation. He also highlighted that the current phase of LeadIT is set to conclude in 2023 and the next year is the time to reflect on the performance and achievements so far.
- The summit concluded with the adoption of the summit statement by the members of LeadIT which re-emphasized the commitment to continue pursuing the low-carbon transition of the industry. The members also committed to providing technical assistance to new members and emerging economies.

Official Launch of The Pandemic Fund at G20

- The G20 Presidency of Indonesia is hosting the official launch of the Pandemic Fund on the margins of the G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers' Meeting in Bali, Indonesia in the presence of Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia.
- At the launch, the Pandemic Fund, now with new name and logo, will provide the latest progress the Governing Board has made since its establishment on September 8, 2022, to get operational – an important step toward strengthening global health architecture.

- Drawing on lessons from COVID-19, which exposed huge weaknesses and under investment in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR), particularly in low- and middle-income countries, the Pandemic Fund is intended to strengthen the capacity of these countries to mitigate the risks of future global health threats. It will provide a dedicated stream of long-term financing for PPR and address critical gaps through investments and technical support at the national, regional, and global levels. The Pandemic Fund is also expected to incentivize countries to prioritize this agenda and increase their own efforts.
- This is the first time the international community has come together around a funding mechanism dedicated to investing in pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response in developing countries – a testament to multilateralism, said Dr. Chatib Basri, co-Chair of the Pandemic Fund Governing Board.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Rich haul for NMDC at PRCI Excellence Awards 2022

- National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) bagged the Champion of Champions Award, sweeping the 16th PRCI Global Communication Conclave 2022, to bring home fourteen Corporate Communication Excellence Awards. The awards were presented at the Global Communication Conclave organised by Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) in Kolkata.
- NMDC won Gold awards for Most Resilient Company of the Year; Internal Communication Campaign, Corporate Brochure; Best PSE Implementing CSR.
- It won Silver Awards in the categories of Best Use of CSR for Childcare; Corporate Community Impact; Best Corporate Event; Unique HR Initiatives; Annual Report; Arts, Culture & Sports Campaign
- It also won Bronze Awards for Visionary Leadership; Website of the Year; Innovative Environmental Program and Consolation Award for Best Use of Social Media.

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INTERNATIONAL

G7 'global shield': Bangladesh among first to receive climate funding

- Pakistan, Ghana and Bangladesh will be among the first recipients of funding from a G7 'Global Shield' initiative to provide funding to countries suffering climate disasters, the programme announced at the COP27 summit in Egypt.
- The Global Shield(GS), coordinated by G7 president Germany, aims to provide rapid access for climate-vulnerable countries to insurance and disaster protection funding after floods or drought. It is being developed in collaboration with the 'V20' group of 58 climate vulnerable economies. Germany has contributed \$175.17 million in funding to Global Shield while other countries including Denmark and Ireland have contributed a little over \$41 million.
- The GS will close urgent protection gaps in countries by designing, funding, and facilitating interventions.

Natasa Pirc Musar: Slovenia elects lawyer as first female president

- Natasa Pirc Musar, won the second round of Slovenia's Presidential elections. Natasa Pirc Musar becomes the first female President of the country. She won 58.86 percent of votes in the runoff,

while the opposition right-wing politician and the former Foreign Minister Andze Logar won 46.14 percent of votes.

- The new President of Slovenia, an EU, and NATO member state will replace the Borut Pahor. Borut Pahor has been active in politics for 30 years.
- Borut Pahor was formerly a fashion model who served two five-year terms and is often referred to in public as the Instagram President for his use of the social network.
- Natasa Pirc Musar is the new President, he formerly was a TV representative who became a lawyer and campaigned on human rights rules of law and social welfare issues.
- Natasa Pirc Musar is a Slovenian Attorney and book author, former Information Commissioner, Journalist, and the former President of Slovenia's Red Cross.

NATIONAL

Trade Fair 2022 to open for public on November 19

- The 41st edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) has started at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the fair. The fair will continue till the 27th of this month. During the inauguration ceremony, Minister of State for Commerce and Trade Anupriya Patel and Som Parkash were also present. This year the theme of the trade fair is Vocal For Local, Local to Global.
- The 14-day mega event assumes a special significance as it coincides with celebrations of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- Twenty-nine States and Union Territories are participating in the event. Bihar, Jharkhand and Maharashtra are Partner States while Uttar Pradesh and Kerala are participating as Focus States in the fair.
- Besides, various Central Ministries, Departments, Commodity Boards and PSUs are participating in this event to showcase their achievements.
- NITI Aayog Member (Health) Dr V K Paul inaugurated the Health Pavilion at the 41st India International Trade Fair in New Delhi today. The theme of this year's pavilion of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is- Heal in India, Heal by India.

The Wangala – 100 Drums Festival of Meghalaya

- Wangala Festival of Meghalaya is one of the most popular festivals among the Garos of Meghalaya. Wangala Festival is a harvest festival that is held in honor of Saljong, the Sun-God of fertility.
- The celebrations of the Wangala Festival mark the end of a period of toil, which brings good output to the fields. The beginning of the Wangala Festival also denotes the onset of winter.
- The Wangala Festival is also known as 100 drum festival. Wangala Festival is the occasion when the tribals offer sacrifices to please their main deity Saljong (The Sun God).
- The festival is celebrated for two days and sometimes continues for weeks.
- The ceremony performed on the first day is known as "Ragula" which is performed inside the house of the chief.
- The second day is called "Kakkar". Younger and older sections dressed in colorful clothes with feathered headgear dance to the tune of music played on long oval-shaped drums.

SPORTS

Sri Lanka to host U-19 Men's T-20 World Cup 2024

- International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the venue for Under-19 Men's and Women's T-20 World cup. ICC announced that the 2024 Under -19 men's T-20 World Cup will be hosted by Sri Lanka while the 2026 edition will be staged in Zimbabwe and Namibia.
- The 2025 Under -19 women's T20 World Cup will be held in Malaysia and Thailand, and 2027 Under -19 women's event will be jointly hosted by Bangladesh and Nepal.
- The hosts are selected via a competitive bidding process overseen by a Board sub-committee chaired by Martin Snedden.
- ICC also declared the qualification pathway for the 10-team 2024 women's T20 World Cup. Eight teams will qualify for the event automatically comprising the top three teams from each group from 2023, T20 World Cup.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Senior IAS officer Gaurav Dwivedi appointed CEO of Prasar Bharati

- Senior IAS officer, Gaurav Dwivedi was appointed the Chief Executive Officer of public broadcaster Prasar Bharati. A 1995-batch officer of Chhattisgarh cadre, Mr. Dwivedi will have a five-year tenure from the date he assumes charge. Earlier, Mr. Dwivedi was the Chief Executive Officer of MyGovIndia, the citizen engagement platform of the government. He has been awarded the Prime Minister's Award for his excellent work in administration. He replaces Shashi Shekhar Vempati.
- Shashi Shekhar Vempati was the CEO of Prasar Bharati from 2017 to 2022. After Mr. Vempati completed his five-year tenure, Director General of Doordarshan Mayank Agrawal was given the additional charge of CEO Prasar Bharati in June this year.
- Prasar Bharati is India's state-owned public broadcaster, headquartered in New Delhi. It is a statutory autonomous body set up by an Act of Parliament and comprises the Doordarshan Television Network and Akashvani All India Radio, which were earlier media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar offers floral tributes at statue of Birsa Munda at the Parliament premises

- November 15 is celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas or Tribal Pride Day to honour tribal freedom fighter, Birsa Munda. On November 10, 2021, the Union Cabinet declared November 15 as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' marking the birth anniversary of the revered leader and saluting his contributions to India's freedom movement. Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated a museum in Ranchi in memory of Birsa Munda also known as Dharti Aaba. PM Modi said that observance of the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on Birsa Munda's birth anniversary will serve as an opportunity to celebrate the glorious tribal culture and contribution to national development.
- He was Born in 1875, Birsa Munda led a rebellious movement against British colonial rule and conversion activities in the areas of the Bengal Presidency, which today are part of Jharkhand.
- His rebellion in the Munda belt of Khunti, Tamar, Sarwada, and Bandgaon helped in the revival of traditional tribal culture. Birsa Munda gave the slogan of 'Abua Raj Ete Jana, Maharani Raj Tundu Jana,' which translates as "Let the queen's kingdom end and our kingdom be established."

SUMMIT'S & MOU'S

India, Finland agree to explore new areas of cooperation

- India And Finland agree to carry mutual cooperation between the two countries to a new level and enhance partnership in areas such as digital partnership in Future ICT, Future Mobile Technologies and Digital Education.
- The decision was taken during a meeting between Finland's Minister of Education and Culture Petri Honkonen and Minister of Science and Technology Jitendra Singh at North Block in New Delhi.
- He was accompanied by a high level delegation which later held a separate meeting with the Indian delegation in the presence of the two Ministers.
- Honkonen's visit comes in the wake of the announcement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Finnish counterpart Sanna Marin during a Summit meeting on 16 March last year.
- Minister Singh also reiterated India's focus on collaboration even in Startups. He also recalled that following the signing of the joint declaration during the visit of Mika Lintilä, Minister of Economic Affairs, Finland on 18th April 2022, both sides have initiated collaboration in Quantum Technologies. Indian side has already identified four premier institutes viz IISER, Pune, IIT Madras, TIFR Mumbai and C-DAC Pune to work with Finnish institutions on joint development of Quantum Computer.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Retail inflation eases to 6.77% in October, lowest in three months

- India's retail inflation, which is measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), fell to a three-month low of 6.77% in October, down from 7.41% in September, due to weaker food price rises and a strong year-on-year base.
- This is the 10th consecutive time that the CPI print has come above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upper margin of 6%. The RBI's tolerance band is 2-6%. The Central Government has mandated the RBI to maintain retail inflation at 4% with a margin of 2% on either side for a five-year period ending March 2026.
- The overall food inflation, which accounts for nearly half the CPI basket, came in at 7.01% in October as against 8.60% in the preceding month.
- "The dip in the CPI inflation to a sub-7% reading in October 2022 has offered relief, with the print only marginally exceeding expectations (6.7%) and recording a healthy sequential moderation from 7.4% in the previous month," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA.
- "A favourable base effect and a sequential downtick in the prices of fruits and oils and fats helped to cool food and beverages inflation to 7.0% in October 2022, in spite of the impact of the unseasonal rainfall on vegetables," Nayar stated.

Reliance bags ₹1,424cr contract to develop India's first Multi Modal Logistics Park in Chennai

- According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has been awarded the project to build India's first multimodal logistics park (MMLP) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. A crucial cog in the Centre's logistics overhaul, the MMLP will be spread over 184 acres and cost Rs 1,424 crore. The project will get adequate connecting infrastructure support through a special purpose vehicle (SPV) formed between central and state agencies. RIL emerged

as the winning bidder for the public-private-partnership (PPP) project, with its own investment pegged at Rs 783 crore. The Centre expects the first phase of the project to be completed in two years.

- The project would likely be monitored by the highest levels of the government, as it falls under the high-priority list of projects inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the Centre's project monitoring system. Moreover, it is one of the several flagship projects announced under the Bharatmala Project of MoRTH, which envisions the building of 35 such MMLPs.
- The Centre plans to build 15 of these within the next two years. Under the National Logistics Policy (NLP) and PM-GatiShakti, it wants to bring down logistics costs to under 10 per cent of the GDP in a bid to make exports competitive and supply chains more efficient.

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NATIONAL

PM Modi unveils 108-foot-tall bronze statue of Bengaluru founder 'Nadaprabhu' Kempegowda

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 108 feet tall bronze statue of Sri Nadaprabhu Kempegowda in Bengaluru. The 'Statue of Prosperity' is made to commemorate the contribution of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda who is the founder of Bengaluru.
- The statue was conceptualized and sculpted by Ram V Sutar, who also curated the Statue of Unity. The 'Statue of Prosperity' is made with 98 tonnes of bronze and 120 tonnes of steel.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Statue of Prosperity' and paid floral tribute to the statue.
- The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, the Governor of Karnataka, Thawar Chand Gehlot, and Union Minister Prahlad Joshi.
- PM Modi also flagged off the Chennai-Mysore Vande Bharat Express at Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) railway station.
- He also flagged Bharat Gaurav Kashi Darshan Train at KSR railway station in Bengaluru.

Navy conducts 'Prasthan', an offshore security exercise off Mumbai

- The Indian Navy conducted a structured exercise to evaluate organizational effectiveness in protecting offshore assets off Mumbai on an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) platform 150 km into the sea. The exercise was named 'Prasthan' by the Indian Navy.
- Prasthan is conducted twice a year under the aegis of Headquarters, Western Naval Command. The exercise which is conducted every six months aims to integrate the efforts of all maritime stakeholders involved in offshore defense.
- The 'Prasthan' which is an offshore security exercise aims to examine various measures and protocols conceived to address security threats and other contingencies.
- The Indian Navy has included several crises such as bomb threats, blows out, fire, Terrorists, and medical evacuations during the exercise.
- The Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Coast Guard, ONGC, Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA), the Police fisheries, and customs were a part of the Prasthan exercise.

OBITURY

Batman legend Kevin Conroy tragically passes away at the age of 66

- Kevin Conroy, an actor and voice actor best known for playing Batman in several animated movies and series, has passed away at the age of 66. Kevin played Batman in a variety of projects, and Mark Hamill took on the role of the Joker. The acclaimed animated series, which launched in 1992 and continued until 1996, is where Conroy first voiced Batman.
- His portrayal of Batman in various other DC productions, including the video games Injustice and Batman: Arkham, has received a lot of positive attention. He also appeared in several DC Universe Animated Original Movies, including Batman: Gotham Knight (2008), Superman/Batman: Public Enemies (2009), Justice League: Doom (2012), Batman: The Killing Joke (2016), and Justice League vs. the Fatal Five (2019).

Karnataka: PM Modi mourns death of mathematician RL Kashyap

- 85-Year-old Renowned mathematician and great scholar Padma Shri Awardee Shri Rangasami Lakshminarayan Kashyap or RL Kashyap passed away. RL Kashyap translated around twenty-five thousand Sanskrit mantras into English language. Apart from Mathematics, RL Kashyap has also made many important contributions to the field of Veda. He received many international awards for his immense contributions to the fields of science and technology. Kashyap also wrote more than 250 research papers.
- RL Kashyap was the founder of a spiritual organization called Sakshi Trust and was among the recipients of the Padma Shri award in 2021, which seeks to recognize achievements in all fields and disciplines that involve the element of public service.
- RL Kashyap was a mathematician who also studied electrical engineering. In the later days, Kashyap worked as a professor of Electrical engineering at America's Perdue University. He also developed the Ho-Kashyap rule, A pivotal algorithm in Pattern recognition, with another professor in Harvard, Yu-Chi Ho. After presenting Kashyap Information Creation (KIC) which is related to the discipline of maths, Kashyap came to the fore on the world stage.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Greg Barclay unanimously re-elected as ICC Chairman for two-year term

- New Zealand's Greg Barclay unanimously re-elected as the International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman for another two-year term after his rival, Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) chairman Tavengwa Mukuhani, pulled out of the contest late. Barclay, who served his first stint as ICC chair between 2022 and this November, will now be in the position until 2024. Barclay, an Auckland-based commercial lawyer, was originally appointed as the ICC Chair in November 2020. He was previously the Chair of New Zealand Cricket (NZC) and was a director of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2015. In July, Barclay publicly expressed his desire to continue for a second term.
- Besides Barclay's re-election, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah was elected as the head of ICC's all powerful Finance and Commercial Affairs (F&CA) committee at the board meeting. Shah will have the responsibility of heading ICC's most important committee. All the major financial policy decisions are taken by the F&CA committee before it is ratified by the ICC board.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Kerala Tourism Wins Responsible Tourism Global Award At London World Travel Mart

- The Kerala Tourism has bagged the prestigious Responsible Tourism Global award at the World Travel Mart held in London. State Tourism Minister PA Mohammed Riyas received the award on behalf of the department at London. The award was given for the STREET project implemented by the Responsible Tourism Mission under the Kerala Government. The Jury made special remarks about the water street project implemented at Maravanthuruthu in Kottayam district.
- STREET is an acronym for Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, and Tourism hubs, which was implemented by the Responsible Tourism Mission under the Government of Kerala on March 31, 2022. The STREET Project is an initiative that promotes water conservation and protection with public participation.
- Under the project, the deepening and cleaning of canals and other water bodies take place to promote tourism, as Kerala is famous for its backwaters and also preserve the water bodies to be maintained in good condition.

Shlok Mukherjee from Kolkata wins Doodle for Google contest 2022

- Google announces Shlok Mukherjee as the winner of the 2022 Doodle for Google competition. Shlok Mukherjee is from Kolkata and he was declared the winner for India for his inspiring Doodle titled 'India on the Centre State'. His doodle is also featured on Google.co.in on 14th November 2022. Shlok Mukherjee has showcased India's scientific achievements and advancements through his doodle.
- The Doodle for Google contest has been held in India since 2009. In this competition, students from classes 1 to 10 can participate. The entries of the students are evaluated by Google executives and a jury panel consisting of industry leaders and creative thinkers.
- The theme for this year's Doodle for Google competition was 'In the next 25 years, My India will.' Shlok Mukherjee received Rs 5,00,000 college scholarship, and a Rs 2,00,000 techno package for their school or nonprofit organization.
- He also got a trophy of achievement, Google hardware devices, and fun Google collectibles. For the 2022 Doodle for Google, the judging panel included Bollywood actress Neena Gupta, comic book editor, and stand-up comic Kuriakose Vaisian, social influencers and founders of Slayypoint, Abhyudaya Mohan, and Gautami Kawale, and Alika Bhatt, artist, teacher, YouTuber, Tedx speaker, and entrepreneur.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Bank of Maharashtra tops list of PSU lenders in credit growth in Q2 FY23

- The second quarter of 2022–23 saw the Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) outperform other public sector lenders in terms of percentage loan growth. According to public sector bank issued quarterly data, the lender saw a 28.62 percent increase in gross advances at the end of September 2022, totaling Rs 1,48,216 crore.
- Union Bank Of India came in second with an increase of 21.54 percent to Rs 7,52,469 crore. The largest lender in the nation, State Bank of India, took third place with an 18.15% increase in gross advances.
- However, SBI's total loans were almost 17 times higher at Rs 25,47,390 crore as compared to Rs 1,48,216 crore of BoM in absolute terms.

- BoM had the highest increase of 22.31 percent in Retail-Agriculture-MSME (RAM) loans during the reviewed period, followed by Bank of Baroda with 19.53 percent and SBI with 16.51 percent.
- BoM led the list for low-cost Current Account Savings Account (CASA) deposits with 56.27 percent, followed by Central Bank of India at 50.99 percent.

Union Bank of India rings 104th Foundation Day with launch of Vyom App - Elets BFSI

- The country's fifth largest public sector bank, Union Bank of India, marked its 104th foundation day on 11 November 2022, after being founded on 11 November 1919 and having its first head office inaugurated by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. On this occasion, the bank introduced a super app called Union Vyom, as well as several other digital products.
- Union Vyom App, the bank's super app, is a one-stop shop for all financial goods. The Vyom app is equipped to provide consumers with a one-of-a-kind banking experience in which they may conduct transactions that go beyond traditional banking. Aside from online transactions, customers can obtain Retail, MSME loan, credit card, invest in 5000+ mutual fund schemes, and purchase insurance goods without requiring any assistance. The app is also enabled with lifestyle category products such as booking of flights, hotels, gift cards, cabs, donations & much more.

India's Industrial Output Jumps 3.1% In September Vs 0.8% Fall In August: Official Data

- India's industrial output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grew 3.1 per cent in September, supported by a double-digit increase in electricity generation. This is compared with a contraction of 0.8 per cent in the previous month and a growth of 4.4 per cent in September 2021.
- According to the latest data from the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, the country's industrial production during April-September 2022 jumped 7 per cent, compared with 23.8 per cent in the year-ago period.
- India's electricity sector output grew in double-digits at 11.6 per cent year-on-year to 187.4 on the IIP in September, mining saw a 4.6 per cent jump to 99.5, and manufacturing posted a 1.8 per cent rise to 134.3, according to the official data.
- "For the month of September 2022, the Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with base 2011-12 stands at 133.5 The Indices of Industrial Production for the mining, manufacturing and electricity sectors for the month of September 2022 stand at 99.5, 134.3 and 187.4 respectively. These quick estimates will undergo revision in subsequent releases as per the revision policy of IIP".

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INTERNATIONAL

India announces additional contribution of \$5 million to ASEAN-India science and technology fund

- India announced an additional contribution of USD 5 million to the ASEAN-India science and technology fund to enhance cooperation in sectors of public health, renewable energy and smart agriculture.
- The announcement came during the three-day visit of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar to Cambodia for ASEAN-India and East Asia summits. He addressed the ASEAN-India summit. Vice President Dhankhar highlighted the global concerns on food and energy security, and

emphasised the role of the East Asia Summit (EAS) mechanism in promoting free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific with freedom of navigation and overflight.

- ASEAN-India Science & Technology Collaboration formally started in 1996 with the establishment of the ASEAN India S&T working group (AIWGST).
- Initially, the collaborative S&T projects and activities between India and ASEAN were supported through ASEAN India Fund (AIF) but in 2008, a dedicated ASEAN India S&T Development Fund (AISTDF) with an equivalent amount of USD 1 million was established jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Science and Technology (DST) to support R&D (Research and Development) projects and associated project development activities.
- The AISTDF was enhanced to an equivalent amount of USD 5 million through an announcement by the Prime Minister of India on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Summit in Malaysia in November 2015.

NATIONAL

Manipur: 7th edition of Amur Falcon Festival celebrated in Tamenglong

- The Manipur Forest Authority to celebrate the 7th edition of the Amur Falcon Festival in Tamenglong district, Imphal. The objective of the Amur Falcon Festival is to spread awareness about the protection and conservation of the Amur Falcon.
- Amur Falcon is the world's longest-flying migratory bird. It is a day-long festival that is generally celebrated in the first or second week of November to strengthen human-nature relationships and acknowledge the importance of the small raptor in the lives of people. The first edition of the Amur Falcon Festival was celebrated in 2015.
- The Amur Falcon Festival will be attended by Forest, environment, and climate change minister, Thongam Biswajit Singh, water resources minister, Awangbow Newmai, and Principal Chief conservator of forest & head of forest force, Dr. AK Joshi.
- Through this Amur Falcon Festival people from various backgrounds come together and share their thoughts and ideas.

World's Longest Luxury River Cruise Covering 4,000 km From Varanasi To Assam Will Start In January

- The government is set to launch the world's longest luxury river cruise from Varanasi to Dibrugarh via Bangladesh next year. The world's longest luxury river cruise aims to give a push to Indian inland waterways development.
- The 50 days cruise will set sail from Varanasi and pass-through Kolkata and Dhaka before reaching Bogibeel in the Dibrugarh district of Assam. The cruise will sail on 10th January 2023 and will cover a distance of 4,000 km.
- The world's longest luxury river cruise or the Ganga Vilas cruise will sail from Varanasi to Dibrugarh in the longest river journey of 50 days.
- The 50 days long journey will cover 27 river systems and visit over 50 tourist sites including World Heritage Sites.
- The journey of the world's longest luxury river cruise will be the single largest river journey by a single river ship in the world.
- This journey will also put India and Bangladesh on the river cruise map of the world.

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal informed that the development of coastal and river shipping includes cruise services which is one of the priorities of the government.

Cochin Shipyard to construct hydrogen fuel cell catamaran vessel

- Cochin Shipyard signed an MoU with the Inland Waterways Authority of India to build the country's first hydrogen fuel cell catamaran vessel for Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. Another MoU was signed by the Shipyard for the construction of six electric catamaran vessels for Uttar Pradesh and two more such vessels for Guwahati.
- The MoU by the Shipyard was signed in the presence of Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal.
- Union Minister for Heavy Industry Mahendra Nath Pandey, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and other dignitaries were part of the event.
- The Cochin Shipyard informed us that the air-conditioned hydrogen fuel cell catamaran vessel will have a seating capacity for 100 passengers.
- It will be deployed at Varanasi after the test and trials are done in Kochi.
- The air-conditioned electric hybrid vessels are designed for short-distance commutes in riverine waters.

SPORTS

2022 IBSA Blind Football Asia/Oceania Championships

- Kerala Governor Arif Muhammad Khan inaugurated the IBSA Blind Football Women's Asian/Oceania Championship 2022 at Kochi, Kerala. The IBSA Blind Football Women's Asian/Oceania Championship 2022 is being held from 11th November 2022 to 18th November 2022.
- This is the first time in India that a para football event will have 10 men's teams and 2 women's teams. This para football event is a qualifier for the World's Championships Birmingham 2022 and the Paris Paralympics 2024.
- IBSA Blind Football Women's Asian/Oceania Championship 2022 will be India's biggest para football event. The event will help to spread awareness about the game.
- Ten teams are participating in the event including India, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Japan, Iran, Australia, and Uzbekistan.

Pakistan vs England, T20 World Cup Final 2022: ENG crowned champions, beat PAK by five wickets

- England were crowned the champions after they defeated Pakistan by 5 wickets in the final at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), Australia. They are the first team to hold the ODI and T20 World Cups at the same time after their memorable win over New Zealand in the 2019 50-over final at Lord's. England also emulated West Indies to become only the second team in the history of the competition to lift two titles in the T20 World Cup.
- England were in the box-seat after captain Jos Buttler won the toss and elected to field first, restricting Pakistan to just 8-137. Ben Stokes used all his experience to score 52 from 49 balls just when his team needed it most as England chased down Pakistan's meagre total of 137/8 with six deliveries remaining at the MCG.

- T20WC Men's Player of the Tournament: Sam Curran (12 wickets in six matches). Sam Curran was adjudged the man of the match for his performance where he took three wickets for just 12 runs from his four overs in the game.

West Midlands to host Kabaddi World Cup in 2025

- The Kabaddi World Cup will be held in the West Midlands region of the United Kingdom. The Kabaddi World Cup 2025 will be hosted out of Asia for the first time announced by the World Kabbadi Federation (WKF).
- The region will host the sport's most prestigious global tournament which will feature the world's best kabaddi players from leading men's and women's teams from India, Iran, and Pakistan. The Kabaddi World Cup 2025 will take place in the West Midlands during the first quarter of 2025.
- The Kabaddi World Cup 2025 will be the first edition after the 2020 edition that could not be held due to Covid-19.
- The previous three editions of the Kabaddi World Cup were all held in India with the hosts emerging as the winner of the three editions.
- Kabaddi World Cup 2025 will be organized by England Kabbadi, Scottish Kabaddi, and the British Kabbadi League.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Kindness Day 2022:13th November

- World Kindness Day is celebrated on November 13 every year. The day inspires people to appreciate the kindness and positive power in society. Kindness has no constraints and goes far beyond the feelings of race, religion, politics, and gender. This day help us to move forward in a helpful and kind spirit toward the people. There are many ways in which a person can show kindness toward the other person.
- One can be kind to their parents who are providing for you or your teachers who are making you a better human being. People these days celebrate this day by sending messages through social media platforms. It's an international holiday that is observed in many countries including but not limited to the U.S., Canada, Australia, Italy, and India.
- This year the day is being celebrated with the theme is 'Be kind whenever possible.'
- The purpose of World Kindness Day as outlined by the World Kindness Movement is "to highlight good deeds in the community focusing on the positive power and the common thread of kindness which binds us."

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

UK: Indian-origin Nobel Laureate Venki Ramakrishnan awarded Royal Order Of Merit

- India-born Nobel laureate Professor Venki Ramakrishnan has been awarded the prestigious Order of Merit by Britain's King Charles III in recognition of his distinguished service to science. The 70-year-old UK-based molecular biologist is among six appointments made to the historic order by the late Queen Elizabeth II before her death in September and the first to be appointed by Charles. The Order of Merit is an exclusive mark of honour conferred by the British sovereign.

- Professor Venki was born in Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu and studied biology in the US before moving to the UK where he is the Group Leader of the leading research hub MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Cambridge University.
- He received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2009 for his work on ribosomal structure and was knighted by the Queen in 2012. He was President of the UK's Royal Society from November 2015 until November 2020.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Per capita income rose in real terms by 33.4 per cent: Centre

- Per capita income of population in India has increased in real terms by 33.4 per cent since the enactment of National Food Security Act (NFSA) in 2013, the Centre has told the Supreme Court.
- The Union government said this rise in per capita income of people has taken a large number of households to higher income class.
- "During last eight years, since the enactment of NFSA, per capita income of the population in India has increased in real terms by 33.4 per cent. The rise in per capita income of people is bound to have taken a large number of households to higher income class and they may not be as vulnerable as they were in 2013-14," the Centre said.
- Referring to the increase in per capita income, the Centre said the upper limit of 75 per cent for rural and 50 per cent for urban population who were considered vulnerable in 2013-14, would have gone down considerably.
- "Non-exclusion of non-eligible households in NFSA increases the subsidy burden on the Union government," it said.
- The Union government also informed the top court that about 4.7 crore ration cards have been added in the last eight years under NFSA.