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1. Army organises Walong Fair on the occasion of Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Battle of Walong (Nov. 11, 2022)

Army organises Walong Fair

The Indian Army organised the **Walong Mela** on 10 November 2022 to mark the **Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Battle of Walong**.

Important facts

- The **Dao Division of Spear Corps** has organised this fair at Walong circle of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- It aims to remember the unsurpassed bravery and sacrifice of the Indian Army while defending Indian territory against the Chinese invasion of **1962**.
- The objective of the Mela was to familiarise the public with the Indian Army and to encourage a sense of belongingness and togetherness.
- The Mela held in Walong included a variety of spectacular sports and sporting events.

Battle of Walong

- Walong is one of the easternmost region of India in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- In the **Indo-China War of 1962**, the Indian Army defended against China in all areas except Walong in Arunachal Pradesh.
- With less ammunition and resources, the **6th Kumaon Infantry Battalion** launched a counterattack between 14 and 16 November 1962 against the Chinese army with the aim of deterring the approaching enemy.
- Indian troops fought the Chinese for more than 20 days in Walong, India's easternmost city, which is adjacent to the Tibet region.

2. 3-day mega agriculture fair and exhibition at Morena, Madhya Pradesh (Nov. 11, 2022)

3-day mega agriculture fair and exhibition

The Union Ministry of Agriculture is organising a three-day **Mega Agriculture Fair and Exhibition** in collaboration with the State Government and District Administration at **Morena, Madhya Pradesh** from November 11, 2022.

Important facts

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** inaugurated the mega agricultural fair and exhibition.

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the local MP, **Narendra Singh Tomar** were **presided over** the Inaugural ceremony.
- About 35,000 farmers of Chambal-Gwalior zone participated in this event.
 - Agriculture fairs and exhibitions are being organised to make the **Gwalior-Chambal region** advanced and a pioneer in agriculture.
 - In this fair, scientists of agricultural universities, agricultural zone centres, officers and employees of agriculture department, representatives of various government and non-government organisations related to agriculture guided the farmers.
 - For the guidance of the farmers, 12 different sessions and 4 group sessions will be organised every day on various important topics, in which agriculture experts from across the country will give information and presentations.
 - Companies and institutions dealing with the supply of various inputs to the private sector agriculture will showcase their products.
 - On this occasion, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated **103 Amrit Sarovar** and laid the foundation stone of **Sanjeevani Kendras**.

3. MoU to set up effective governance systems under DAY-NRLM (Nov. 11, 2022)

effective governance systems under DAY-NRLM

Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **Gurugram-based Veddis Foundation** to support setting up of effective governance systems under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)** on 10 November, 2022.

Important facts

- The partnership with MoRD and Veddis Foundation is for **three years** and is a non-financial partnership.
- The MoU was signed by Joint Secretary, Rural Livelihoods, Nita Kejrewal from MoRD and Murugan Vasudevan, CEO, Veddis Foundation in a meeting chaired by Secretary, Rural Development, Nagendra Nath Sinha.
- As per the MoU, Veddis Foundation will set up a PMU in the Rural Livelihoods (RL) Division of the Ministry of Rural Development for the next five years.
- The MoU will also strengthen the state's capabilities, establish innovative models and implement a national strategy for convergence of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and SHGs.
- One of the initial focuses as part of the MoU is an annual report on the status of SRLMs in which the various SRLMs are expected to be evaluated on the basis of 'Governance Index'.

About Veddis Foundation

- Veddis Foundation has set up Project Management Units-PMUs in the State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs) of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Manipur.
- It will work on a 360-degree approach for effective implementation of the top level priorities of the government in Rajasthan in future.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)

- It was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in **June 2011**.
- It aims to reduce rural poverty by increasing livelihood opportunities through skill development and better access to financial services for rural poor households in the country.
- With an annual budget outlay of over Rs 13,000 crore, the program covers 7.15 lakh villages in 723 districts, and covers over 8.6 crore rural households.

4. Indian Army launches single-window facility for welfare, grievance redressal of 'veer naris' (Nov. 11, 2022)

Indian Army launches single-window facility

The Indian Army has launched a single-window facility for welfare and grievance redressal of '**veer naris**' on 10 October, 2022.

Important facts

- The project was inaugurated by the **Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA)** at the Indian Army Veterans Directorate (DIAV) campus, **Delhi Cantt.**
- Veerangana Seva Kendra (VSK) will be available as a service on Indian Army Veterans Portal www.indianarmyveterans.gov.in.
- Veer Nari or Kin will have many means of contact including telephone, WhatsApp, e-mail.
- The widow of a member of the armed forces who sacrificed her life in war or military campaign is called 'Veer Nari'.
- A single window facility named **Veerangana Seva Kendra (VSK)** has been launched for the welfare of '**Veer Naris**' and redressal of grievances with the motto of '**Take Care of Your Own, No Matter What**'.
- The system caters to the applicant for tracking, monitoring and filing complaints with regular feedback.
- Veer Nari or Kin will have multiple means of contacting VSK through Telephone, SMS, WhatsApp, Post, E-mail and Walk-in.
- Stakeholders can monitor the status of complaints through Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software.

- The applicant will receive regular updates of the status through SMS and email.
- The 'Veer Naris' are appointed as VSK staff to maintain in-built engagement and empathy with the beneficiaries.
- The project is spearheaded by the branch of DIAV, AG and the technology solution is developed by **BISAG-N**, while **Hero MotoCorp** has supported the project through its CSR initiatives.

5. India hosted the 2nd BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministers meeting (Nov. 10, 2022)

2nd BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministers meeting

India hosted the **Second Agriculture Ministerial-level meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative** for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation ([BIMSTEC](#)) at New Delhi on 10 November under the chairmanship of the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.

Important facts

- Agriculture ministers of **Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand** participated in the meeting.
- Tomar urged the member countries to develop a comprehensive regional strategy to strengthen cooperation for transformation in agriculture.
- Referring to the International Year of Millets - 2023, he urged for adopting a healthy diet for all.
- He asked the participating countries to actively participate in India's initiative to promote coarse cereals as food.

About 2nd BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministerial Meeting

- The meeting adopted the Action Plan for Strengthening **BIMSTEC Agricultural Cooperation (2023-2027)**.
- An MoU was signed between the BIMSTEC Secretariat and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and approval was given to bring the fisheries and livestock sub-sectors under the Agriculture Working Group.

About BIMSTEC

- BIMSTEC was established in 1997.
- It includes five countries of South Asia – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and two countries of South-East Asia – Myanmar and Thailand.

6. India joins MAC, at 27th session of COP27 in Egypt (Nov. 10, 2022)

MAC, at 27th session of COP27 in Egypt

India has joined the **Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC)** at the **27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27)** at **Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt**.

Important facts

- After joining the alliance, India called for the integration of mangrove conservation with reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) programs for carbon sequestration.
- Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said studies have shown that mangrove forests can absorb four to five times more carbon emissions than landed tropical forests.

What are Mangroves?

- These are small trees and shrubs that grow along the coast and thrive in salt water and develop into unique forests on land and sea shore.
- Mangrove ecosystems are one of the most productive and ecologically important ecosystems in the world.
- They offer significant climate change mitigation and adaptation co-benefits because they are able to store carbon up to 400 percent faster than land-based tropical rainforests.
- They protect coastal areas from rising sea levels, erosion and storms and provide breeding grounds for marine biodiversity.
- About 80 percent of the world's fish population depend on these ecosystems for their survival.
- India contributes about half of the total mangrove cover in South Asia and the Sundarbans in West Bengal has the highest percentage of mangrove cover in India.
- West Bengal has the highest percentage of mangrove cover in India. It is followed by Gujarat and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Kerala also have mangroves.

About Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC)

- MAC is an intergovernmental coalition that seeks to accelerate the conservation and restoration of mangrove ecosystems.
- India is among the first five countries to join the MAC, which includes Australia, Japan, Spain and Sri Lanka.

7. Kochi to host 18th International Telemedicine Conference (Nov. 10, 2022)

18th International Telemedicine Conference

The **18th International Telemedicine Conference** organised by **Telemedicine Society of India (TSI)** in association with **TSI Kerala Chapter** will be held in Kochi, Kerala from 10-12 November.

Important facts

- More than 200 scientists and academic scholars from India and around the world are expected to come together in this three-day event.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman S Somnath will participate in this conference as the chief guest and deliberate on how the latest technologies in our country will improve telemedicine facilities.
- The conference will be held at Amrita Hospital, Kochi.
- “The core theme of the event ‘Strengthening Health Systems Through Sustainable Telemedicine and Digital Health’.
- The conference aims to build a platform involving health regulators, health funding authorities, service providers and international experts.
- The conference will examine emerging telehealth models, explore breakthrough technologies and entrepreneurship.
- The conference will also highlight the socioeconomic impact of telehealth on healthcare and equity.

About International Telemedicine Conference

- Telemedicine-2022 is an annual global conference for healthcare professionals, providers, health insurance providers, online pharmacy chains, industrialists, academic scientists, research scholars and scientists.
- The conference is organised in collaboration with government agencies, private organisations and national and international professional societies.

8. Urban Affairs Ministry launches Transport 4 All Challenge Stage-2 and Citizen Perception Survey 2022 (Nov. 10, 2022)

Citizen Perception Survey 2022

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** launched the “**Transport 4 All Challenge**” **Stage-2** and **Citizen Perception Survey 2022** on 9 November, 2022.

About Transport 4 All Challenge Stage-2

- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, aimed at enhancing the mobility experience of citizens.

- The challenge focuses on digital innovation and invites cities, citizens and innovators to join hands to develop relevant digital solutions to improve formal and informal public transport to better meet the mobility needs of all citizens.
- More than 130 cities signed up for Phase 1 of the challenge launched on April 15, 2021.

Stages of Transport 4 All Challenge' Stage-2

1. **Stage I - Problem Identification** : Cities, with the support of NGOs, identify key recurring problems that citizens and public transport operators face.
2. **Stage II - Solution Generation** : Startups, develop prototypes of solutions to improve public transport with inputs from cities and NGOs.
3. **Stage III Pilot Testing** : Cities engage Startups for large-scale pilots and refine the solutions based on citizen feedback.

Citizen Perception Survey 2022

- The Citizen Perception Survey (CPS) is conducted as part of the Ease of Living Index. It was conducted for the first time in 2020.
- The Survey aims to understand citizens' perceptions about the quality of life in their cities.
- It tries to understand the perception of citizens on public transport, education facilities, health services, availability of water, cost of housing, employment opportunities, etc.
- Citizen Perception Survey 2022 will be conducted from November 9 to December 23 this year.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the Urban Outcomes Framework 2022 in April 2022 as an initiative to conduct transparent and comprehensive assessment of cities based on cross-city outcomes in key sectors.
- The Ease of Living Index, in the form of a 360-degree assessment, evaluates India's cities on the basis of quality of life, economic potential and sustainability.

9. S Jaishankar holds bilateral talks with Foreign Minister of Belarus, Vladimir Makei (Nov. 10, 2022)

S Jaishankar holds bilateral talks with Foreign Minister of Belarus, Vladimir Makei

External Affairs Minister **Dr. S Jaishankar** held bilateral talks with his **Belarus counterpart Vladimir Makei** in New Delhi on 9 November, 2022.

Important facts

- The Foreign Minister of Belarus, Vladimir Makei arrives in New Delhi on November 9, 2022 for a two-day visit to India.

- Both leaders held talks on a range of issues including bilateral economic ties, Ukraine conflict and multilateral cooperation.

India - Belarus Relations

- India's relations with Belarus have been traditionally warm and cordial.
- India was one of the first countries to recognize Belarus as an independent country in 1991.
- After formal diplomatic relations were established, the Indian diplomatic mission was opened in Minsk in 1992 and Belarus opened its mission in New Delhi in 1998.
- Cooperation between the two countries is reflected in several multilateral fora such as the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
- Belarus helped consolidate India's candidature for a temporary seat at the UNSC in July 2020.
- India has supported Belarus in various international fora such as membership of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and other international and multilateral groups such as the IPU (Inter-Parliamentary Union).
- The two countries have established mechanisms for the exchange of views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues through the Foreign Office Consultations (FOC), the Intergovernmental Commission (IGC), and the Joint Commission on Military Technical Cooperation.
- The two countries signed several MoUs on various subjects including defence and technical cooperation, trade and economic cooperation, culture, education, media and sports, tourism, science and technology, agriculture, textiles, avoidance of double taxation, promotion of investment.
- In the economic sphere, the annual bilateral trade turnover in 2019 is USD 569.6 million.

About Belarus

- President - **Alexander Lukashenko**
- Prime Minister - **Roman Golovchenko**
- Capital - **Minsk**
- Currency - **Belarusian ruble**

10. Atal Innovation Mission launches women centric challenges under ANIC program (Nov. 10, 2022)

women centric challenges under ANIC program

Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog launched the **Women centric challenges** under the **2nd edition of Atal New India Challenge (ANIC)** on 9 November.

Important facts

- Women centric challenges address the major issues faced by women from all walks of life.
- These include promoting women's hygiene through innovation, innovations to improve women's safety, professional networking opportunities for women, innovations that improve the lives of working mothers and make the lives of rural women easier.
- It aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve regional challenges of national importance and social relevance through a grant-based arrangement of up to Rs 1 crore.
- ANIC's women centric challenges address the major issues faced by women from all walks of life.
- These include promoting women's hygiene through innovation, innovations to improve women's safety, professional networking opportunities for women, innovations that improve the lives of working mothers and make the lives of rural women easier.
- NITI Aayog currently runs the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), which was launched in 2018, to help women become entrepreneurs, scale up their innovations and create sustainable, long-term strategies for their businesses.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

- This is an important initiative taken by the Government of India to promote the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.

Objective of AIM

- Developing new programs and policies to promote innovation in various sectors of the economy
- Providing forums and opportunities for collaboration for various stakeholders
- To create an umbrella structure to create awareness and monitor the innovation ecosystem of the country.