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1. Bangladesh launches interactive gaming portal to mark Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's birthday (Sept. 28, 2022)

Bangladesh launched its first **interactive gaming platform** named '**Hasina and Friends**' to mark the **75th birth anniversary** of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September 28.

Important facts

- Unveiling this platform, Minister of State for ICT **Junaid Ahmed Palak** said that it is the first learning platform built in Bangladesh.
- The Minister announced that from now on every year **Hasina and Friends Festival** will be organized in which children will also be rewarded.

About interactive gaming platform 'Hasina and Friends'

- It is designed to educate children about the **environment, education and digital connectivity**.
- Children will be able to learn many life skills through this gaming platform.
- It has been designed to foster creativity among children, make them smart and inculcate in them progressive and liberal values.
- This will give a boost to **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Vision 2041** to make Bangladesh a developed country.
- Through this platform, children will be taught the lessons of the **history, culture and development of Bangladesh**.

About Sheikh Hasina

- Sheikh Hasina secured a **fourth term** as prime minister after winning the 2018 general election.
- Hasina has become the longest-serving Prime Minister of Bangladesh since independence.

2. NDMA 18th Foundation Day (Sept. 28, 2022)

28 September, 2022 is NDMA's **18th Foundation Day**. Addressing the 18th Foundation Day of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in New Delhi, Home Minister Amit Shah said that India has significantly reduced the damage caused by disasters in recent years.

Important facts

- Minister of State for Home, **Nityanand Rai** said, since 2014 the government has taken practical steps in disaster response.
- He said that **Aapda Mitra Scheme** is being implemented which has helped in involving the local people in disaster management.
- India has achieved great success in the direction of overall strengthening of disaster management and several schemes are being implemented in this direction.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

- NDMA was established through the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and was constituted in Dec 2006.
- The aim of the National Disaster Management Authority is to build a safer and disaster-resilient India by developing a holistic, proactive, multi-disaster and technology-driven strategy for disaster management.

Organisational Structure

- The **Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairperson** of the NDMA.
- The Cabinet Minister is the **Vice-Chairman**.
- The NDMA Secretariat, headed by a Secretary, is responsible for providing secretarial support and continuity.
- Along with this, NDMA has 8 Ministers of State as its Members.

Steps taken by indian government in Disaster Management

- India is a signatory to the **Sendai Framework** for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- India is working closely with the **United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)**.
- India has formulated the **National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)**.
- NDMA has taken an initiative on **Earthquake Disaster Risk Indexing (EDRI)** for 50 important cities and 1 district in seismic zone IV and V zones.
- 30 most flood affected districts of 25 states have been included in NDMA's **Aapdamitra scheme**.
- The government has constituted a **National Crisis Management Committee and a Crisis Management Group**.

3. India, Netherlands formalise fast track mechanism for investments (Sept. 28, 2022)

The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** and the **Embassy of the Netherlands** on 27 September officially signed a Joint Statement to formalize the Bilateral **Fast-Track Mechanism (FTM)** between India and the Netherlands.

Important facts

- The Ambassador of The Netherlands to India, **Marten van den Berg**, and Secretary, DPIIT, **Anurag Jain**, formally signed the Joint Statement on 27th September 2022.
- It aims to serve as a platform for faster resolution of investment cases of Dutch companies operating in India.
- **Invest India**, the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency, is the **executive body** of bilateral FTMs.
- The FTM will function in close collaboration between DPIIT, the concerned Ministries and Departments, Invest India and the Embassy of the Netherlands.
- This mechanism will strengthen bilateral efforts to enhance mutual investment activities, as well as support and develop business cooperation between companies in the two countries.

Diplomatic relations between India and The Netherlands

- The diplomatic relations between both countries were established in **1947**.
- Since then, the two countries have developed strong political, economic and commercial ties and various regional cooperations.
- According to official Indian statistics, the Netherlands is the **fourth largest foreign direct investor** in India.
- Between April 2000 and June 2022, the cumulative inflow of foreign direct investment from the Netherlands to India reached approximately **US\$ 42.3 billion**.
- In 2021-2022, the bilateral trade between the two countries stood at **USD 17 billion**.
- India exports mainly mineral fuels and mineral based products, organic chemicals, electrical machinery and equipment, aluminum, iron and steel and pharmaceutical products to the Netherlands.

4. Indian fertiliser firms sign MoU with Canada's Canpotex (Sept. 28, 2022)

India's fertiliser companies- **Coromandel International, Chambal Fertilizers and Indian Potash Limited** signed an MoU with **Canpotex, Canada** on 27 September 2022.

Important facts

- The MoU was presented to Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, at Delhi**.
- As part of the MoU, Canpotex, Canada will supply **15 LMT** of potash annually to Indian fertilizer companies for a period of **3 years**.

- This supply sharing is expected to improve fertilizer availability within the country and reduce the cost of fertilizers.
- It is a significant step towards ensuring long-term fertiliser availability for the farming community.
- The MOU will reduce both supply and price volatility and ensure stable long-term supply of **Potassic fertilisers** to India.

Significance of Potash

- Potash is a source of potassium and is used directly as a combination of '**N**' (**nitrogen**) and '**P**' (**potash**) nutrients in **MOP (Muriate of Potash)** as well as **NPK fertilizers**.
- India meets 100% of its potash requirement through imports.
- India imports approximately **40 LMT MOP** annually.

About Canpotex

- It is a joint venture between leading fertiliser players, **Mosaic and Nutrien**, and markets Potash being produced at Saskatchewan region in Canada.
- Canpotex, Canada is one of the largest suppliers of potash globally, exporting approximately **130 LMT of potash** annually.
- It exports potash to more than **40 countries** and is one of the major suppliers of potash to India.

5. Sixth anniversary of Surgical Strike (Sept. 28, 2022)

The nation celebrates the **sixth anniversary** of surgical strike on **28 September**.

Important facts

- On **28 September 2016**, the Indian Army launched surgical strikes against terrorist camps situated in **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir**.
- Eleven days after the **Uri attack**, in which 18 soldiers lost their lives, the Indian Army conducted surgical strikes on the intervening night of 28 and 29 September 2016, in which terrorists inflicted heavy losses.
- The Indian Army, including commandos of various units of the **Para (Special Forces)** stationed in Jammu and Kashmir, raided several positions across the border.
- With this action, India gave a befitting message that if needed, it can cross the border and attack terrorist hideouts.

What is a Surgical Strike?

- A surgical strike or surgical operation is a military attack carried out only for the purpose of destroying a designated military target.
- In a surgical strike, every effort is made to cause less damage to the surrounding construction, vehicles, buildings or other public.
- Such an action requires tremendous coordination between the government, intelligence agencies and security forces.
- India has conducted surgical strikes against insurgent groups in **Myanmar in 2015** and terror launch pads along the **Line of Control in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in 2016**.

6. Government bans Popular Front of India (PFI) and its affiliates for five years (Sept. 28, 2022)

The Central Government has declared the **Popular Front of India (PFI)** and its affiliates an **unlawful association** with immediate effect for a period of **five years**.

Important facts

- The decision comes a day after the police conducted fresh raids in several states and detained more PFI activists.
- In Delhi, 30 people have been detained by raids in **Nizamuddin, Rohini district and Shaheen Bagh**.
- Last week, the National Investigation Agency and the Enforcement Directorate arrested **106 top PFI leaders** and booked them on charges of **money laundering and terror financing**.
- The PFI and its following affiliates have been banned - **Rehab India Foundation, Campus Front of India, All India Imam Council, National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation, National Women Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala**.

About Popular Front of India (PFI)

- It was created in 2007 through the merger of three Muslim organisations in southern India.

- **These three Muslim organisations are-**

1. The National Democratic Front in Kerala,
2. The Karnataka Forum for Dignity, and
3. The Manitha Neethi Pasarai in Tamil Nadu

- It describes itself as a non-governmental organisation and a neo-social movement striving for the empowerment of the marginalised, deprived and oppressed sections of India.
- Its headquarter is at **Delhi**.
- It merged with various other social organizations and spread to the north, west, east and northeastern states of the country.
- It has various wings such as - women's wing, student wing, political wing, an NGO and a think tank with more than 50,000 members.

7. Colombia and Venezuela reopen border crossing after 7 years (Sept. 27, 2022)

Colombia and **Venezuela** on 26 September 2022 reopened their border after years of impasse and also re-established diplomatic relations.

The reopening was a key campaign promise of the left-wing Colombian President **Gustavo Petro**, who assumed office last month.

Colombian President Gustavo Petro and the Venezuelan delegation accompanied the first cargo truck to cross the **Simon Bolivar bridge** that connects both the countries.

Why were the Border crossing closed ?

The Simon Bolivar Bridge had officially been closed to trade for nearly seven years. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro ordered border crossings closed in 2015 as a crackdown on smuggling.

In 2019, tensions between the two countries rose after the right wing government in Colombia attempted to deliver aid to the right wing Venezuelan opposition who are opposed to the left wing President Maduro.

Colombia

It is located in North West South America.

Colombia is the world's largest producer of emeralds and one of South America's largest producers of gold.

Capital: **Bogota**

Currency: **Colombian peso**

President: **Gustavo Petro**

Venezuela

It is located at the northern end of South America.

World's highest waterfall, **Angel Fall (979 meters)** is in Venezuela.

Capital: **Caracas**

Currency: **bolívar soberano**

President: **Nicolás Maduro**

8. ICAO sign agreement with International Solar Alliance to promote solar use in Aviation sector (Sept. 27, 2022)

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** to reduce the growth of carbon dioxide emissions in the international aviation sector. The agreement was signed in **Montreal, Canada** on 27 September 2022.

With the headquarter of ISA being in **Gurugram**, the agreement was received by the Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia as a host country of ISA.

Under the MoU the ICAO and ISA will scale up the deployment of solar energy solutions for aircraft, airports, and other aviation-related applications.

ICAO has become the latest International organisation to Join ISA. In September 2022, **Bhutan** became the 86th country to ratify the ISA agreement .

The International Solar Alliance was launched by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the French President Emmanuel Macron in 2015 to implement the Paris agreement on climate change.

It promotes the use of sun energy so as to reduce the emission of greenhouse gasses.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

It is a specialised agency of the United Nations which was set up on **4 April 1947**.

The ICAO is dedicated to developing safe and efficient international air transport for peaceful purposes and ensuring a reasonable opportunity for every state to operate international airlines.

Headquarters; **Montreal, Canada**

Members: **193 countries**

ICAO Secretary General: **Juan Carlos Salazar**

9. Sahar Al Rumaih becomes the first women deputy governor of Kuwait's Central Bank (Sept. 27, 2022)

Kuwait has appointed **Sahar Al Rumaih** as the deputy governor of its central bank, Central Bank of Kuwait.

It is for the first time that a woman has been appointed to this post in the country.

The first woman deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India was **KJ Udeshi** . She was appointed for this post in 2003.

Basel A. Al-Haroon is the governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait.

Kingdom of Kuwait

It is an Arab country situated in the Arabian Peninsula along the Persian Gulf in West Asia.

It is a small Kingdom/Emirate, situated between Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Capital: **Kuwait city**

Currency: **Kuwaiti Dinar**

King/Emir: Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Prime Minister: Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al-Sabah

10. S Jaishankar meets US Secretary of Defense Lloyd J Austin in Washington (Sept. 27, 2022)

External Affairs Minister **Dr. S Jaishankar** met US Secretary of Defense **Lloyd J Austin** in **Washington** on 26 September.

Important facts

- Jaishankar said defence and security cooperation is a key pillar of the contemporary **India-US partnership**.
- The two leaders noted continued progress in policy exchange, interoperability, defence trade, services and military-industrial cooperation.
- They also exchanged their perspectives on the **Ukraine conflict, Indo-Pacific development, maritime challenges and regional issues**.
- Jaishankar also met US Commerce Secretary **Gina Raimondo**.
- The main topics of interaction were - **Resilient Supply Chain, Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, High Technology Cooperation, Semiconductors and Trade Promotion**.
- The External Affairs Minister began his Washington DC program with a round table organized by the **National Science Foundation (NSF)**.
- The session covered technical security, credible research and talent development.
- S Jaishankar is in the US on a **10-day visit** to hold bilateral consultations with several US cabinet ministers.