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1. INS Tarkash at Port Gentil, first-ever visit by an Indian Navy ship to Gabon (Sept. 27, 2022)

The Defence Ministry said on 26 September that **INS Tarkash** has visited a port in **Gabon** as part of an ongoing deployment in the Gulf of Guinea for anti-piracy patrols.

Important facts

- This marks the **first visit by any Indian Naval Ship to Gabon.**
- During its stay in port, the ship and its crew will participate in official and professional interactions as well as sport fixtures.
- Their professional interactions will include discussions and exercises on firefighting and damage control, medical and casualty evacuation issues, and dive operations.
- Apart from this, yoga sessions and social interactions are also planned.

About INS Tarkash

- INS Tarkash is a state-of-the-art stealth frigate of the **Indian Navy.**
- It is built by Yantar Shipyard at **Kaliningrad, Russia.**
- It is equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors capable of addressing threats in all three dimensions.
- The ship incorporates the latest stealth features such as low radar, infra-red, acoustic and magnetic signatures, making it difficult to detect at sea.
- The ship is part of the Western Fleet of the Indian Navy based at Mumbai under the Western Naval Command.

About Gabon

- It is a country on the west coast of **Central Africa.**
- Prime Minister - **Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda**
- President - **Ali Ben Bongo Ondimba**
- Capital - **Libreville**
- Official Language - **French**

2. President inaugurated ₹208-crore rocket engine manufacturing facility in Bengaluru (Sept. 27, 2022)

President **Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated the **Integrated Cryogenic Engines Manufacturing Facility** of **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** in **Bengaluru** on 27 September.

Important facts

- The facility will promote self-reliance in manufacturing **high-thrust rocket engines** and will fulfil ISRO's desire to manufacture rocket engines.
- It has been constructed over a **4,500 square metre** space and houses over **70 high-tech tools and testing facilities** for the production of **cryogenic (CE20) and semi-cryogenic (SE2000) engines** for Indian rockets.
- This facility (ICMF) will complete the entire rocket engine manufacturing for ISRO under one roof.
- An MoU was signed with ISRO in **2013** for setting up a Cryogenic Engine Module production facility in the Aerospace Division of HAL.
- It was later amended to set up ICEMF in 2016 with an investment of Rs 208 crore.
- This was later updated in 2016 to allow setting up of ICMF with an investment of ₹208 crore.
- HAL has said that it will start production of the module by **March 2023**.

Manufactured by HAL Aerospace Division

- The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV),
- Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV MK-II),
- Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV Mk-III),
- Stage integration for GSLV Mk-II

Cryogenic engines

- Cryogenic engines are the most commonly used engines in launch vehicles worldwide.
- Only **France, China, Japan, Russia and the United States** have mastered cryogenic technology because of the complexity of the cryogenic engine.
- India became the **sixth country** to develop a cryogenic engine in 2014, when GSLV-D5 was successfully flown using a cryogenic engine.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

- It was set up as Hindustan Aircraft Limited by **Walchand Hirachand** in **1940 at Bangalore (now Bengaluru), Karnataka**.
- It was taken over by the government of India and merged with Aeronautics India limited and was renamed as Hindustan Aeronautics Limited on 1 October 1964.

- Its main business is to design, develop, manufacture, repair and overhaul of aircraft, helicopters, engines and related systems like avionics, instruments and accessories.
- It comes under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- Headquarters: **Bengaluru**

3. Giorgia Meloni to become the first female Prime Minister of Italy (Sept. 26, 2022)

A coalition of the right wing alliance has won a majority in the recently held Italian parliamentary election on 25 September 2022.

The coalition has won 235 seats in the 400 member Italian Parliament's lower house, Chamber of Deputies.

The Brother of Italy party led by **Giorgia Meloni** emerged the largest single party with 118 seats.

She is likely to be the first female Prime minister of Italy after the foundation of the Italian Republic in 1946.

She will be the **31st Prime Minister of Italy**.

The Italian parliament has two houses. The upper house called the Senate has 200 members and the lower house called the Chamber of deputies has 400 members.

President of Italy: **Sergio Mattarella**

Currency of Italy: **Euro**

Capital of Italy: **Rome**

4. Prime Minister Modi arrives in Japan to attend the state funeral of former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe (Sept. 26, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reached Tokyo on 26 September 2022 to participate in the state funeral of the former Japanese Prime minister Shinzo Abe to be held on 27 September 2022.

Shinzo Abe was shot dead on 8 July 2022 while campaigning for a parliamentary election.

The state funeral to be held in Budokan will be attended by representatives of over 100 countries including 20 heads of state or head of government.

Pm Modi would meet separately with his Japanese counterpart **Fumio Kishida** and Shinzo Abe's wife in Japan.

Indian and Japan relationship during Shinzo Abe leadership

- PM Modi and Shinzo Abe shared very close ties and the latter had gone on record to call PM Modi his most dependable friend. The close ties between the two leaders helped bolster Indo-Japan ties to a special strategic and global partnership.
- In 2017, he visited Ahmedabad to lay the foundation of India's first bullet train (from Ahmedabad to Mumbai).
- He was also the chief guest at the Republic Day parade in 2014 during the UPA government.
- He addressed the joint session of the Indian Parliament in 2007.
- He was given India's second-highest civilian award Padma Vibhushan in 2021.

Japan

- Japan is also called as **Nihon or Nippon**
- It is an archipelago in the western Pacific Ocean in East Asia.
- It is composed of four main islands Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu. Honshu is the largest island of Japan.
- It is separated from the Asian mainland by the Sea of Japan.
- Its highest mountain is Mount Fuji.
- It is the third largest economy in the world after the United States and China.
- It is the only country in the world where atom bomb was dropped. In 1945 the U.S. dropped atomic bomb on Hiroshima on 6 August (bomb name Little Boy) and Nagasaki on 9 August (Bomb name Fat Man).

Prime Minister: Fumio **Kishida**

Capital of Japan: **Tokyo**

Currency of Japan: **Yen**

5. A red alert issued in the Philippines due to Super Typhoon Noru (Sept. 26, 2022)

Officials issued a **red alert** on September 25 as **Super Typhoon Noru** advanced in the **Philippines**.

Important facts

- As the cyclone devastated the country's **eastern islands**, citizens have been asked to evacuate high-risk areas immediately.
- Due to the Typhoon, winds gusting up to **240 kilometers per hour** have increased the risk of **landslides, floods and cyclones in the capital Manila**.
- The intensity of the cyclone has increased by **90 kmph in 24 hours**.
- A warning has also been issued for the **island of Luzon** in the Philippines.
- Fishermen in **Quezon province** have been advised not to venture into the sea due to Typhoon Noru.

- In December 2021, **Cyclone Rai** caused widespread destruction in the Philippines and killed around 400 people.
- Cyclone 'Noru' is believed to be the most powerful cyclone to hit the **Southeast Asian country this year**.

About the Philippines

- It is a country located in **Southeast Asia**.
- The official name of this country, made up of a group of islands located in the western Pacific Ocean, is '**Republic of the Philippines**'.
- Its capital is **Manila**.
The Philippines is bounded on the east by the Philippines Ocean, on the west by the South China Sea, and on the south by the **Celebes Sea**.

6. India's first 'flex fuel' car, Toyota sedan (Sept. 26, 2022)

India's first '**flex fuel**' car, the **Toyota sedan** is all set to be unveiled later this month. India will join the club of countries (**Germany, France and Brazil**) that are already using **flex-fuel engines** for their cars.

What is a Flex Fuel Vehicle?

- Currently, flex-fuel is being seen as an **alternative to petrol-diesel**.
- It is an internal combustion fuel prepared by combining **gasoline and methanol or ethanol**.
- Flex Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) are capable of running on **100% petrol or 100% bio-ethanol or a combination of both**.
- Both fuels are stored in the **same common tank**.
- The most prominent commercially available FFV in the world market is the **ethanol flexible-fuel vehicle**.

Benefits of Flex Fuel

- Made using ethanol blending, this fuel rapidly reduces harmful pollutants such as **carbon monoxide, sulphur and carbon and nitrogen oxides**.
- India is dependent on imports for **80 percent of petrol and diesel**. With the introduction of flex fuel, dependence on other countries will end.
- Ethanol production can also increase in our country because we have better production rates of **sugarcane and maize**. These are the major sources of ethanol production.
- This will also benefit the farmers financially.
- Its cost will also be less because it will cost less to prepare it.

7. Union Agriculture Minister lays foundation stone of NSC organic seed farm in Morena, MP (Sept. 26, 2022)

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, **Narendra Singh Tomar**, on 25 September laid the foundation stone of an organic seed farm of the National Seed Corporation (NSC) at **Morena**.

Important facts

- The Central Government has decided to set up a farm at Morena (MP) for the production of organic seeds by reclamation of the land in the rough area.
- For this, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has allotted **885.34 hectares of land in 4 villages of Morena (Gadora, Jakhauna, Rithora Khurd and Gorkha)** to the Union Agriculture Ministry.
- This land is a rough area of **Chambal** and farming was not possible due to the ravines in the area.
- On completion of this, new organic seeds of oilseeds will be available to the farmers of Madhya Pradesh.
- With this farm farmers will be introduced to modern technology, they will get high yielding seeds and their socio-economic status will improve.

De-notification of 207 hectares of land

- He said that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has taken a major decision to recommend de-notification of **207 hectares of land** in the **National Wildlife Sanctuary of Chambal**.
- Due to de-notification, this area will be outside the sanctuary area, due to which sand will be available at cheap prices for construction/development works at the local level and this will also create new employment opportunities.

National Seed Corporation (NSC)

- NSC is a Schedule '**B**'-**Miniratna Category-I company**.
- It is wholly owned by the Government of India under the administrative control of Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- It was established in **March-1963** to undertake production of foundation and certified seeds.
- Presently, it is producing certified seeds of about **621 varieties of 80 crops**.

8. INS Sunayna in Seychelles (Sept. 26, 2022)

INS Sunayna entered **Port Victoria Seychelles** on 24 Sep 22 to participate in the annual training exercise **Operation Southern Readiness of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)**.

Important facts

- This reaffirms the commitment of the Indian Navy to maritime security in the **Indian Ocean region**.
- It also marks the first participation of an Indian Navy ship in the **CMF exercise**.
- The ship is scheduled to participate as an associate participant in the capacity building exercise organized by the CMF.
- Representative delegations from **USA, Italy, Australia, Canada, New Zealand** and **ships from UK, Spain and India** are participating in the joint training exercise.

INS Sunayna

- It is the second **Saryu-class patrol vessel** of the Indian Navy.
- It was designed and constructed indigenously by the **Goa Shipyard Limited**.
- It is designed for fleet operations, coastal and offshore patrol, maritime surveillance and monitoring of sea lines of communication, and offshore asset and maintenance work.
- In **June 2018**, it was deployed as part of "**Operation Nistar**", a HADR mission to evacuate Indian citizens from cyclone-hit **Socotra islands**.

About Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)

- It is a multi-national naval partnership to promote security, stability and prosperity across approximately 3.2 million square miles of international waters.
- Its main focus areas are counter-narcotics, counter-smuggling, suppressing piracy, encouraging regional cooperation etc.

9. Significant positive impact on India-UAE trade from India-UAE CEPA (Sept. 26, 2022)

The **India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** that came into force on 1 May 2022 is creating a significant positive impact on India-UAE trade.

Important facts

- Indian exports to the UAE, **excluding petroleum products**, grew from US\$ 5.17 billion during June-August 2021 to US\$ 5.92 billion during June-August 2022.
- It denotes an increase of **14%** of Indian exports.
- India's global non-petroleum exports during the same period (**Jun-Aug 2022**) grew by **3%** on an annual basis.

- This implies that the growth rate of India's non-petroleum exports to UAE is about 5 times that of India's non-petroleum exports to the world.
- According to the Commerce and Industry Ministry Indian imports from the UAE during the same period also grew from 5.56 billion dollar to 5.61 billion dollar.

India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

- It was signed on **18 February 2022**, during the India-UAE Virtual Summit.
- It came into force on **1 May 2022**.
- It provides for an institutional mechanism to encourage and improve trade between the two countries.
- CEPA is a type of free trade agreement that covers trade in services and investment and negotiations on other areas of economic partnership.

10. Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry (MoHUAM) launch Swachh Toycathon (Sept. 26, 2022)

On 26 September, the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** launched **Swachh Toycathon**, a unique competition to make toys from waste.

Important facts

- The competition will be open to individuals and groups to bring innovation to the design of toys using dry waste.
- The focus will be on the design of those toys, on the basis of which a large number of toys can be made.
- These toys will have to comply with the minimum safety standards.
- The competition will be hosted on **MyGov innovate India portal**.
- Center for Creative Learning **IIT-Gandhinagar** will be the knowledge partner of this competition.
- Due to the economic development, income growth and many innovations in the country, the demand for toys has increased tremendously.
- The **National Toy Action Plan-2020** has been launched to establish India as a global toy hub and promote traditional handmade toys.

National Toy Action Plan-2020

- The government has prepared a National Toy Action Plan involving **14 ministries** to make the domestic toy industry competitive.
- It aims to make India self-reliant in the toy sector and increase the presence of domestic toys in the global market.

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and 14 Ministries are
- implementing various aspects of the scheme.