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1. DigiYatra facilities starts at the Delhi, Varanasi and Bangalore airport (Dec. 1, 2022)

DigiYatra facilities starts

The Union Civil Aviation Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** inaugurated the Digi Yatra facility at the **IGI Airport in New Delhi** on 1 December 2022. This facility has also been simultaneously launched at the **Kempegowda International Airport Bangalore**, and the **Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi**. Initially the DigiYatra facility will be only for **domestic flights**.

Initially **7 airports** were selected under the Digi Yatra facility. In the first phase it has been rolled out in Delhi, Varanasi and Bangalore. In the second phase it will be rolled out in 4 more airports by March 2023.

The Government plans to roll out the DigiYatra facility at **GMR Hyderabad International Airport, Hyderabad, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport Kolkata, Pune International airport Pune**, and at the **Vijayawada International Airport, Vijaywada** in the second phase by March 2023. Later, the facility would be implemented across various airports in the country.

The beta version of the service was introduced at **Delhi and Bengaluru airports** on Independence Day this year.

What is DigiYatra?

DigiYatra is based on facial recognition technology and will make the boarding process faster and seamless.

Passengers will have to register on the DigiYatra app through their respective Aadhaar cards to avail the service.

The initiative will automate the entry and verification of passengers at all airports checkpoints and will use facial features to establish a traveller's identity and link it to their respective boarding passes.

This will result in shorter wait times in lines, quicker processing times, and simpler procedures for the passengers.

Who developed the DigiYatra?

Digi Yatra has been promoted by the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation. To develop a facial recognition system at the airports, **Digi Yatra Foundation was set up in 2019**.

The Digi Yatra Foundation is a joint venture of the Airport Authority of India (AAI), Cochin International Airport (CIAL), Bangalore International Airport (BIAL), Delhi International Airport Ltd. (DIAL), Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (HIAL) & Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL).

2. Former Chinese President Jiang Zemin dies aged 96 (Dec. 1, 2022)

Former Chinese President Jiang Zemin dies aged 96

Former **Chinese President Jiang Zemin** died on 30 November, 2022 at the age of 96 in **Shanghai**, of leukaemia and multiple organ failure.

Important facts

- He was the **first Chinese President to visit India in 1996** when India and China moved towards normalising the bilateral ties.
- Jiang was China's president from **1993-2003**.
- Under his leadership, **Hong Kong** was peacefully handed over to China in 1997 and China joined the **World Trade Organization**, which laid the groundwork for China to become the **world's second largest economy** with high-speed development.
- Jiang Zemin took command of China after the **1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre**.
- He consolidated the powers of the Communist Party of China, weeded out internal dissent, and in 1999 cracked down on the religious sect Falun Gong, which was seen as a threat to the party.
- He is also credited with the country's further integration with the global order and higher status as a world power.

India - China relation in his tenure

- His visit to India in 1996 was seen as a major step towards the normalisation of **India-China bilateral relations**.
- During his visit, the two countries signed a comprehensive agreement to restore **peace and tranquillity** along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** and reached a consensus on building a **constructive and cooperative partnership**.
- Both sides signed several agreements for confidence building in the military sector along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.
- Both sides also discussed reducing border troops.
- This was followed by Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee's** visit to **China in 2003**, when both sides decided to appoint their respective Special Representatives (SRs) to explore a solution to the boundary issue under the framework of the Boundary Agreement.
- Jiang was then the chairman of the Central Military Commission and Hu Jintao took over as the Chinese President in 2002, a year earlier.

3. Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III squadron, commissioned in Chennai (Dec. 1, 2022)

Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III squadron, commissioned in Chennai

With a view to further strengthen Coast Guard Area East, **840 Sqn (CG)**, an Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter (**ALH) Mk-III squadron** was commissioned by **DG VS Pathania** on 30 November at ICG Air Station, **Chennai**.

Important facts

- The commissioning of **840 Sqn (CG)** marks a significant progress towards self-reliance in helicopter manufacturing, in line with the government's vision of '**Atmanirbhar Bharat**'.
- It will provide a fillip to the capabilities of the Indian Coast Guard in the security sensitive waters of **Tamil Nadu and Andhra region**.
- A total of **16 ALH Mk-III aircraft** have been inducted into the Indian Coast Guard in a phased manner and four of these aircraft are positioned in Chennai.
- Since induction, the squadron has flown over 430 hours and conducted numerous operational missions.

About ALH Mk-III helicopters

- The ALH Mk-III helicopters, indigenously manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
- It features state-of-the-art equipment including advanced RADAR as well as Electro optical sensors, Shakti engines, full glass cockpit, high-intensity search light, advanced communication systems, automatic identification system as well as search-and-rescue homer.
- The facility will enable the squadron to conduct maritime reconnaissance, and conduct search and rescue operations over extended ranges, operating **day and night** from ships.
- The aircraft has the ability to switch from an offensive platform with a heavy machine gun for transfer of critically **ill patients** to a benign platform carrying ICUs.

4. ICG conducts 24th National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan and Preparedness Meeting (Dec. 1, 2022)

24th National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan and Preparedness Meeting

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on 30 November conducted the **24th National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP) and Preparedness Meeting** in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.

Important facts

- Director General, ICG **V S Pathania**, who is the Chairman of NOS-DCP, chaired the meeting.

- During the meeting, national capabilities were reviewed with the objective of ensuring
- collective preparedness to respond to any oil and chemical spill contingency in Indian waters.
 - The meeting was attended by around 100 delegates including representatives from various ministries, central and state government departments and agencies, state pollution control boards, ports and companies dealing with oil spills.
 - Currently, as the **third largest importer of crude**, India receives a large volume of oil through ships.
 - Similarly, **India stands sixth in the world as a major chemical importer** country.

Risks of oil and chemicals spill

- Spills of both oil and chemicals pose inherent risks to coastal populations, marine ecosystems, industry and the ancillary tourism industry as well as various establishments in India's maritime zones and associated coastlines.
- Hence, preventive measures are required to be taken by the Central Coordinating Agency, Ports, Ship Owners, Oil Handling Facilities, Coastal States and other relevant stakeholders to prevent any possible marine spillage.

About Indian Coast Guard (ICG)

- It is an Armed Force, Search and Rescue and Maritime Law Enforcement agency under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- It was established in **August 1978** by the **Coast Guard Act, 1978** as an independent Armed force of India.
- It is the **fourth largest Coast Guard** in the world.
- It has played a vital role in securing Indian coasts and enforcing regulations in India's maritime zones.
- It is headquartered in **New Delhi**.

5. 100 national monuments to be illuminated to mark India's assumption of G-20 Presidency on 1 December 2022 (Nov. 30, 2022)

100 national monuments to be illuminated

The Government of India has decided to illuminate **100 monuments** in the country with the **G20 logo** on **1 December 2022** to mark the first day of India's Presidency of the G-20 group.

During the G-20 Bali Summit in Indonesia, the Indonesian President [Joko Widodo](#) handed over the presidency to Prime Minister Modi symbolically, on 16 November 2022. But officially India

will take over the G-20 presidency on 1 December 2022. India will be holding the G-20 presidency from **1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023**.

During the course of its Presidency, India will be holding about 200 meetings in 32 different sectors in multiple locations across the country.

The **18th G-20 Leaders' Summit** at the level of heads of state/government is scheduled to be held on September 9-10, 2023 in New Delhi.

Logo

The G20 Logo draws inspiration from the vibrant colours of India's national flag - **saffron, white and green, and blue**.

It juxtaposes planet Earth with the lotus, India's national flower that reflects growth amid challenges. The Earth reflects India's pro-planet approach to life, one in perfect harmony with nature.

Below the G20 logo is "**Bharat**", written in the Devanagari script.

Theme

The theme of India's G20 Presidency - "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**" or "One Earth One Family One Future" - is drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of the **Maha Upanishad**.

Essentially, the theme affirms the value of all life, human, animal, plant, and microorganisms and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe.

Message of the Logo and Theme

The logo and the theme together convey a powerful message of India's G20 Presidency, which is of striving for just and equitable growth for all in the world, in these turbulent times, in a sustainable, holistic, responsible, and inclusive manner.

For India, the G20 Presidency also marks the beginning of "*Amritkaal*", the 25-year period beginning from the 75th anniversary of its independence on 15 August 2022,

Group of 20 or G-20 is a multilateral organisation of 19 countries and the European Union was set up in 1999. India has been a member of the G20 since its inception in 1999.

6. BIS signs MoU with top six engineering institutes of India (Nov. 30, 2022)

BIS signs MoU with top six engineering institutes of India

The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has signed **MoUs with six engineering institutes** to implement Indian Standards as part of their curriculum.

Important facts

- This initiative is towards institutionalising engagement of BIS with the eminent institutes for securing active participation of academia.
- BIS has signed an Agreement with the following engineering Institutes-

1. Indian Institute of Technology BHU,
2. Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur,
3. Indian Institute of Technology Indore,
4. Indian Institute of Technology Patna,
5. Indian Institute of Technology Madras
6. National Institute of Technology Trichy

- The MoU is for establishment of '**BIS Standardization Chair Professor**' at these institutes.
- It will promote excellence and leadership in teaching, research and development in the field of science and various disciplines in the respective institutions.
- Under the agreement, technology innovation and standards development will be linked together to promote the development of technology oriented products and services.

About Bureau of Indian Standards

- Bureau of Indian Standards is the national standards body of India under the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India.
- Headquarters- **Manak Bhawan, Old Delhi**
- Director General- **Pramod Kumar Tiwari**
- Established- **23 December 1986**

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8. Israeli ambassador to India apologizes on remarks of Nadav Lapid on Kashmir Files (Nov. 30, 2022)

Israeli ambassador to India apologizes on remarks of Nadav Lapid on Kashmir Files

Israel ambassador to India, Sri Lanka and Bhutan **Naor Gilson** has apologized for the comment made by an Israeli filmmaker **Nadav Lapid** on the film Kashmir files.

Israel film maker Nadav Lapid who headed the jury in the [53rd International Film Festival of India](#) held at Goa criticized the Kashmir Files film as 'propaganda and vulgar' that had no place at a film festival at the closing ceremony on 28 November 2022.

Nadav Lapid was heavily criticized for his comment in India.

The **Kashmir Files** film is based on events in 1990 when more than 2 lakh Kashmiri Pandits (Hindus) fled from Jammu and Kashmir. It was the start of the Pakistan sponsored militancy in Jammu and Kashmir which took an Islamist colour and Kashmiri pandits were threatened to either leave Kashmir or convert to Islam. Kashmiri pandits were selectively killed by the Islamic militants to scare the community.

The film has been directed by **Vivek Agnihotri** and Anupam Kher, Darshan Kumar, Pallavi Joshi, Mithun Chakraborty have acted in the movies.

The film has become controversial as the film portrays the killing of Kashmiri pandits as a genocide and the critic accuses the film of increasing Islamophobia.

9. India witnesses significant decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) (Nov. 30, 2022)

India witnesses significant decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)

As per a report released by the **Registrar General of India** on 30 November India has witnessed a significant decline in the **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)** from 130 in 2014-16 to 97 in 2018-20 on per lakh live births.

Important facts

- As per the report MMR has improved further by a spectacular six points and now **stands at 97 per lakh live births.**
- The MMR is defined as the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per one lakh live births.
- India has thus met the National Health Policy target of an MMR of less than 100 per lakh live births and is on course to achieve the **Sustainable Development Goal of an MMR of less than 70 per lakh live births by 2030.**

Three highest MMR State

- Assam has the highest maternal mortality rate (MMR) at 195, followed by Madhya Pradesh at 173 and Uttar Pradesh at 167 (per lakh live births).

States with lowest MMR

- Kerala has the lowest MMR of 19 per lakh live births, followed by Maharashtra 33 and Telangana 43.

States which have achieved Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target

- Kerala (MMR 19), followed by Maharashtra (33), Telangana (43), Andhra Pradesh (45), Tamil Nadu (54), Jharkhand (56), Gujarat (57) and Karnataka (69).

10. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval highlights role of Ulema in countering radicalization (Nov. 30, 2022)

Ajit Doval highlights role of Ulema in countering radicalization

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval participated in a conference on '**Role of Ulema in promoting a culture of interfaith peace and social harmony in India and Indonesia**', in **New Delhi** on 29 November.

Important facts

- He said that cross-border terrorism and **ISIS-inspired terrorism** continues to pose a threat.
- He said, India and Indonesia are victims of terrorism and separatism.
- He said scholars of Islam and Islamic law have a “**vital role**” to play in countering **radicalisation and extremism** by propagating progressive ideas and thought.
- Role of Ulema in promoting a culture of interreligious peace and social harmony in India and Indonesia - will help bring scholars together to promote tolerance, harmony and peaceful co-operation and strengthen the fight against violent extremism, terrorism and radicalism.
- The ulemas have a “leading role in educating the people on the original tolerant and moderate principles of Islam”.
- Both countries need to build a consensus on de-radicalisation, and institutions need to come together to identify and address potential negative impacts.
- The Indonesian delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister **Mohd Mahfud MD** is on a three-day visit to India.

About Indonesia

- Indonesia is located between the **Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean**.
- It is the **world's largest island country** with more than 17,000 islands, it is the **fourth most populous country in the world**.
- **Indonesia ranks first**, Pakistan second and India third in terms of Muslim population in the world.
- The world's most populous island is **Java**, it is in Indonesia.
- Indonesia was one of the founding members of the **Non-Aligned Movement** along with India.
- Currency - **Indonesian rupiah**
- President - **Joko Widodo**