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1. Emmy Awards - 2022, Lee Jung-jae won the title of Best Actor (Sept. 14, 2022)

The 74th Emmy Awards - 2022, held in Los Angeles, USA, were announced on 13 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Actor **Lee Jung-jae** won an Emmy for **Best Actor** in a Drama for his performance in Netflix's hit South Korean series **"Squid Game"**.
- **"Squid Game"** producer **Hwang Dong-hyuk** became the first Asian director to win the Drama Series category and also the first director to win for a non-English language series.
- Lee took the title, beating veterans Jason Bateman (Ozark), Brian Cox (Succession), Bob Odenkirk (Better Call Saul), Adam Scott (Severance) and Jeremy (Succession).
- He has also won the SAG Award for 'Squid Game' earlier this year as well.
- The series revolves around a competition where 456 players, all of whom are facing a deep financial crunch.

About Emmy Award :

- It annually recognizes excellence in leading television programming produced outside the US.
- It is also called the American Television Award.
- The Emmy Awards are created by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.
- The National Academy was formed in 1946 and the Emmy Award was presented for the first time in 1949.

2. Government launches national list of essential medicines (Sept. 13, 2022)

The Health Ministry has released a new National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), in which 384 medicines have been included.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- In the list of 384 medicines, 34 new medicines have been included in the list of essential medicines.
- The NLEM 2022 contains 384 medicines as compared to 376 in NLEM, 2015.

The drugs are now classified into 27 therapeutic categories.

What is National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) ?

- Essential medicines are those that meet the primary health care needs on the basis of efficacy, safety, quality and total cost of treatment.
- The primary objective of NLEM is to promote rational use of drugs considering three important aspects viz., cost, safety and efficacy.
- It is based on the concept that a limited list of carefully selected drugs will improve the quality of health care, provide cost-effective health care and better manage medicines.

3. India to assume G20 Presidency for one year from December 2022 (Sept. 13, 2022)

As per the Ministry of External Affairs India will chair the G20 meeting for one year starting from December 1, 2022 to November 20, 2023.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- A total of 200 G20 meetings are likely to be held under the chairmanship of India.
- The G20 Leaders' Summit at the level of Heads of State/Government is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on 9 and 10 September 2023.

India is part of the G20 Troika :

- India is currently part of the **G20 Troika (current, past and upcoming G20 presidencies)** which includes Indonesia, Italy and India.
- During India's Presidency, India, Indonesia and Brazil would form the troika.
- This will be the first time that the troika will include three developing countries and emerging economies, which will give them a boost.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

G-20 Group :

- Group of 20 or G-20 is a multilateral organisation which was set up in 1999.
- It consists of the world's major developed and developing countries.
- It consists of 19 countries and the European Union. The member countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.
- Italy was the President of the G-20 in 2021. Indonesia is the President for 2022 and India will be the President in 2023.

- The first Summit meeting of the leaders of the G-20 was held in 2008 at Washington, United States.
- The G20 has no permanent secretariat.
- G-20 members constitute 60% of the world population, 80% of the World economy and 75% of world trade.

4. MeitY Startup Hub, Meta to launch program to accelerate XR technology startups in India (Sept. 13, 2022)

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) will launch a program to support and accelerate XR technology startups across India in collaboration with Startup Hub META.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- This collaboration is part of the government's efforts to skill in emerging and futuristic technologies.
- With a large talent pool of creators, developers and a vibrant technology ecosystem, India has the potential to play a significant role in the metaverse.
- MeitY Startup Hub, an initiative of MeitY, is a national platform focused on promoting technology innovation, start-ups and creation of intellectual property.
- Currently, it has over 3,000 tech startups, with the expectation of growing to over 10,000 startups in the next three to five years.

Minister of Electronics and IT - **Ashwini Vaishnaw**

5. Centre organizes Virtual Networking Meet for GI Products with Qatar (Sept. 12, 2022)

The Centre has organized a virtual networking meeting between exporters of India and importers of Qatar to boost agri and food GI products exports in Qatar on 12 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The meeting was held after India banned the export of broken rice and imposed 20% duty on certain varieties of rice except rice and basmati rice.

- More than 80 participants including Exporters, Importers, Representatives of IBPS, Embassy of India and Officials of Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) participated in it.
- The meeting provided a forum for dialogue between exporters and importers on India's strengths in exporting agricultural and food products of Indian origin.
- The event is expected to further strengthen the confidence of importers in Indian products to facilitate exports.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

About "APEDA":

- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by the Parliament in December 1985.
- This authority functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Headquarters- **New Delhi**
- Chairman- **Dr. M. Angamuthu**

6. India signs MoU with Gulf Cooperation Council to facilitate consultation (Sept. 12, 2022)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on 10 September signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Secretary-General of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf on the mechanism of consultations between India and the GCC.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The External Affairs Minister is on a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia from 10-12 September 2022, his first visit to Saudi Arabia as Foreign Minister of India.
- Jaishankar held bilateral meetings with the Secretary General and discussed the relevance of India-GCC cooperation in the context of the current regional and global situation.

About Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) :

- It is a political and economic alliance of six Middle Eastern countries—**Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman.**
- It was established in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in **May 1981.**

- Its aim is to achieve coordination, cooperation and integration and Arab regional unity among these countries.
- The GCC member states have a total GDP of over USD 3.464 trillion and a total population of 54 million.

Why is GCC significant for India ?

- About 7.6 million people of the Indian diaspora live in the Middle East.
- According to the Reserve Bank of India report, India receives 30% of the total remittances from Middle Eastern countries. Although earlier this figure used to be 50 percent.
- The decline in remittances may be due to the Covid-19 pandemic which forced workers to come to India.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -***India's trade and energy interests :***

- India's third largest trading partner (USD 72.9 billion) in the year 2021-22 was the United Arab Emirates.
- Saudi Arabia was India's fourth largest trading partner in the last financial year.
- From Qatar, India imports 8.5 million tonnes of LNG annually and exports products ranging from cereals to meat, fish, chemicals and plastics.
- Two-way commerce between India and Qatar increased to US\$ 15 billion in 2021-22 from US\$ 9.21 billion in 2020-21.
- Oman and Bahrain have also been a prosperous bilateral trade partner with India.

7. India joins 3 pillars of the US led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) (Sept. 10, 2022)

India has decided not to join the trade pillar of the United States-led [Indo-Pacific Economic Framework \(IPEF\)](#) for now but has agreed to join the other three pillars: supply chains, tax and anti-corruption and clean energy.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- This was declared by the Union Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goel** at the end of the trade ministers first in person meeting of the IPEF, held in Los Angeles, United States on 9 September 2022.

Why India has not joined the Trade pillar :

- The Minister said that the trade pillar which deals with trade requires commitment of the member countries on environment, labour, digital trade, and public procurement.

- He said that India is not certain what benefit it will get by joining this trade pillar.
- He expressed the fear that the trade pillar may set high standards of compliance which may discriminate against the developing countries.
- Giving an example he said that the United State has set a high standard on environment protection which is applicable on the energy companies. It has set stringent norms for power plants so that they are low polluting and more environment friendly. This mandates investment in new technology which makes the power produced costly.
- If India follows the US standards then it will adversely impact India's economic development. India needs cheap power so that it is accessible to all. It cannot afford costly powers.
- Similar concerns are also there in the field of labour, digital trade, and public procurement.

8. First National Conference on Sustainable Coastal Management in India inaugurated (Sept. 10, 2022)

Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the first National Conference on Sustainable Coastal Management in India in Bhubaneswar on 10 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The conference focused on increasing the **climate resilience of India's coastal communities** and discussing steps to be taken towards coastal management.

Organiser of the Conference :

- The conference is being organised by the **Green Climate Fund Supported Project - Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities.**

The objective of the Conference :

- Bringing officials from all 13 coastal states of India under one roof to focus on three interrelated themes of coastal and marine biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation and coastal pollution.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

Enhancing climate resilience of India's coastal communities :

- '**Enhancing the Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities' (2019-2024)** is a 6-year project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change with the support of UNDP.
- The project aims to enhance the climate resilience of the most vulnerable populations, especially women, in the coastal regions of India.
- The project is supported by the Green Climate Fund.

9. NITI Aayog, WRI launches e-FAST - India's first national electric freight platform (Sept. 10, 2022)

NITI Aayog, in collaboration with World Resources Institute (WRI), India, launched the country's first national electric freight platform - e-FAST India (Electric Freight Accelerator for Sustainable Transport - India) on 8 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- This will help strengthen partnerships and identify and support innovative freight shipping solutions.
- The platform aims to raise awareness on freight electrification, driven by on-ground pilots and evidence-based research.
- It will also support scalable pilots and help formulate policies aimed at accelerating goods electrification in India.
- The freight sector plays a vital role in India's economy in enabling the delivery of goods and vital resources.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

World Resources Institute (WRI) :

- It is a global research organisation with over **1,000 experts** and other staff around the world.
- It was started in **1982 in Washington, DC** to address global environmental and development challenges.
- It spans over **60 countries** with offices in Brazil, China, Europe, Mexico, India, Indonesia and the United States.
- India Resource Trust holds a license from WRI to use the "**WRI India**" trademark.

10. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announces commencement of the Swachh Amrit Mahotsav (Sept. 10, 2022)

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will launch the 15-day Swachh Amrit Mahotsav from September 17 to mark the completion of eight years of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The Swachh Amrit Mahotsav will focus on motivating citizens to take steps towards building garbage free cities.
- It will start on September 17, the **birthday of Prime Minister** Narendra Modi. September 17 will be celebrated as **Service Day**.
- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri released the official logo for '**Swachh Amrit Mahotsav**' - '**Ek Aur Kadam Swachhta ki Ore**'.
- It shows the resolve to intensify and strengthen the '**Jan Andolan**' in the world's largest cleanliness programme.
- The Minister announced for the first time the launch of '**Indian Swachhata League (ISL)**', an inter-city competition to be held among the youth of cities on September 17, 2022.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

About Swachh Bharat Mission :

- Launched - on **2nd October 2014**
- Launched by - Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**
- Aims - to achieve the vision of a 'Clean India' by 2nd October 2019.
- Slogan - **One step towards cleanliness**
- It is a restructured version of the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan launched in 2009.
- The first phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission lasted till **October 2019**.
- Phase 2 is being implemented between **2020-21 and 2024-25**.