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1. Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurates Geo Smart India 2022 Summit in Hyderabad (Nov. 18, 2022)

Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurates Geo Smart

Union Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** inaugurated the **Geo Smart India 2022 Summit in Hyderabad** on 15 November, 2022.

Important facts

- He said the country is leading the way in socio-economic prosperity driven by state-of-the-art technology and innovation.
- He said the country is moving towards an era of sustainable development from the grassroots level and aims to eradicate poverty, combat climate change and improve business and living standards.
- He said that the government has issued guidelines to pave the way for the use of geospatial data in various sectors of the economy.
- He said that the country is facing a severe water crisis which is becoming an important issue and the government has taken several steps to solve the issue.
- The three-day summit was attended by around 2500 delegates from around 500 government, private, organisations working on geospatial technology and so on.

About Geo Smart India Summit

- GeoSmart India is the largest conference of Geospatial experts across the globe.
- It is an interactive and collaborative platform that reflects the collective and shared vision of the Indian geospatial community.
- The conference showcases how geospatial and emerging technologies can have a disruptive impact on Indian businesses.
- It also serves as a meeting place for global businesses to understand the ease of doing business in India by connecting with relevant authorities and potential business partners across sectors.

2. India wins Excellence in Family Planning Leadership (EXCELL) Award-2022 (Nov. 18, 2022)

India wins Excellence in Family Planning Leadership

India is the only country to have received the **Leadership in Family Planning (EXCELL) Awards-2022** in the '**country category**' at the International Conference on Family Planning held in **Pattaya city, Thailand**.

Important facts

- India has made significant progress in adopting modern contraceptive methods, which have helped couples make choices about family planning.
- These are reflected in the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS) - 5 data.**
- As per NFHS-5 data, the total contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) in the country has increased from 54 per cent to 67 per cent as compared to NFHS-4.
- Similarly, unmet needs for family planning showed a significant decline from 13 percent to 9 percent.

International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP)

- It serves as a strategy for family planning and reproductive health worldwide.
- It is the **world's largest scientific conference** on family planning and reproductive health.
- The last conference was held in **2018 at Kigali, Rwanda.**
- **After 2009**, this conference organised every two years.
- The first conference was held in **Kampala, Uganda, in 2009.**
- It provides an opportunity to engage with civil society, youth organisations, academia, governments, businesses, cities, parliaments, trade unions to disseminate knowledge, celebrate successes and recognize progress made towards universal access to family planning systems, services and products.

3. Army Chief General Manoj Pandey received guard of honour at Les Invalides in Paris (Nov. 18, 2022)

Army Chief General Manoj Pandey received

Army Chief **General Manoj Pande** who is on a four-day visit to **France**, received a **Guard of Honour** at the **Les Invalides in Paris** on 17 November, 2022.

Important facts

- General Manoj Pande held talks with his French counterpart **General Pierre Schille** and discussed issues of mutual interest during his visit to the European country.
- The Chief of Army Staff is on a visit to France from 14 to 17 November.
- Gen Pande left for France on November 14 on a four-day visit with an aim to further strengthen the "**bond of trust**" between the Indian and French armies amid the rapidly evolving security matrix and geopolitical situation.
- General Pande held extensive talks with the top military brass of France including the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Chief of the Army Staff and the Commander of the Land Combat Forces.

About France

- France is located on the **western edge of Europe**
- Prime minister: **Élisabeth Borne**
- President: **Emmanuel Macron**
- Capital: **Paris**
- Currency: **euro**

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5. MoU signed for exhibition of “Silver Treasures from Denmark and India” in the year 2023 (Nov. 18, 2022)

“Silver Treasures from Denmark and India”

An MoU was signed between the **National Museum, New Delhi and the Danish Museum Kolding** for the exhibition “**Silver Treasures from Denmark and India**” on 17th November, 2022 in **New Delhi**.

Important facts

- The exhibition will showcase the finest collection of silver from Museum Kolding and National Museum in New Delhi in March 2023.
- The collaboration and exhibition is under the recently agreed **Cultural Exchange Program** between India and Denmark for the years **2022 to 2026**.
- The exhibition "**Silver Treasures from Denmark and India**" focuses on Danish and Indian silver artefacts, where both the museums will showcase the best silver items from their collections.
- A total of **200 best displayed items** will be selected in the exhibition.
- For the first time, visitors to the National Museum will be able to see the parallel traditions of Indian and Danish silverware.

Major Museums of India

- National Museum, New Delhi
- National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru
- Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata
- Asiatic Society, Kolkata
- National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi

About Denmark

- Denmark is a country in **northern Europe**. It is made up of the Jutland Peninsula and more than 400 islands in the North Sea.
- Prime Minister: **Mette Frederiksen**
- Capital: **Copenhagen**
- Currency: **Danish krone**
- Danish Monarch: **Queen Margrethe II**
- Official Language: **Danish**

6. India, Australia convene fifth bilateral Cyber Policy Dialogue in New Delhi (Nov. 18, 2022)

Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership.

India and Australia held their **fifth bilateral cyber policy dialogue** on November 17, 2022 in **New Delhi**.

Important facts

- The Cyber Policy Dialogue was held under the aegis of the **India-Australia Framework on Cyber and Cyber-Enabled Critical Technology Cooperation and Action Plan 2020-2025** for Comprehensive and Deepening Cyber Cooperation.
- The dialogue was co-chaired by **Joint Secretary (Cyber Diplomacy Division) Muanpui Saiawi** from the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The Indian delegation consisted of senior officials from the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Ministry of Electronics and Information technology (MEITY), the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and CERT-In.
- The Australian delegation included senior officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of Industry, Science and Resources and the Australian Federal Police.
- Both sides agreed to explore opportunities for collaboration with the private sector and academia, including the **Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership**.
- In addition, India and Australia will jointly organise a **Cyber Bootcamp and Cyber and Tech Policy Exchange** in collaboration with Indo-Pacific partners and the **6th India-Australia Cyber Policy Dialogue** will be held in 2023.

Agenda of Dialogue

- The Cyber Policy Dialogue provides a bilateral forum to discuss high-profile issues of mutual interest.
- It discussed strategic priorities, cyber threat assessment, capacity building for next generation telecommunications (including 5G technology) and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, and the latest developments in cyber at the United Nations.

About Australia

- Prime Minister: **Anthony Albanese**
- Governor-General: **David Hurley**
- Capital: **Canberra**
- Currency: **Australian dollar**

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8. 8th Norway-India Joint Working Group Maritime meeting (Nov. 18, 2022)

8th Norway-India Joint Working

8th India-Norway Joint Working Group Maritime meeting was held on 18th November, 2022 in **Mumbai**.

Important facts

- In the meeting discussion was held on use of alternative fuels like green ammonia and hydrogen for futuristic shipping.
- Important discussions took place on Norway-India cooperation on a green maritime future. Both the countries presented their vision and plans for the Green Sea Zone.
- Additional Secretary Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) highlighted that the maritime trade with Norway dates back since 1600.
- Norway has technical expertise in the maritime sector and India has maritime sector development capabilities and a large pool of trained seafarers, making the two countries natural complementary partners.
- India is part of the **Norway Green Voyage 2050 project**, both sides agreed on the will, dedication, partnership and capacity building to achieve common goals.
- India is a signatory to the Hong Kong Convention for the Recycling of Ships.
- Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways - **Sarbananda Sonowal**

India-Norway Joint Working Group

- India-Norway Joint Working Group (JWG) on Maritime meetings are being held on a regular basis.
- The 7th JWG on Maritime was held in **Oslo (Norway)** in November, 2019.
- During the 7th meeting issues related to cooperation in shipbuilding, enhancement of skill of seafarers and environment friendly ships were discussed.
- **Kingdom of Norway**
It is a Northern European country and lies in the Scandinavian Peninsula. Scandinavian islands consist of Norway and Sweden.
It is one of the largest exporters of crude oil and natural gas in the world .It has significant oil and gas reserves in North Sea.
Prime Minister: **Jonas Gahr Støre**
Capital: **Oslo**
Currency: **Norwegian krone**

9. Wipro the first Indian company to set up European Work Council (Nov. 17, 2022)

Wipro the first Indian company to set up European Work Council

The Indian IT giant company Wipro has reached an agreement with its employee representative to set up a European Works Council (EWC). It has become the **first Indian company** to set up an European works councils for its workers in Europe.

The 27 member [European Union](#) has mandated the companies which have more **than 1000 employees** across the European Union countries to set up EWC. Wipro which is in the business of IT (Information Technology)outsourcing has more than 1000 employees in the 13 European Union member countries.

European works councils (EWCs) are standing bodies that facilitate the information and consultation of employees in Europe. It provides an opportunity to employees of the company to be informed and consulted on the transnational companies' strategy and status.

The first meeting of the Wipro EWC will take place in the first quarter of 2024 where the EWC will elect its chairman and select committee members.

WIPRO

It is a diversified Indian multinational company.

It was set up as Western India Vegetable Products limited company by Mohamedhusain Hasham Premji in 1945. It later changed its name to WIPRO and diversified in the business of Information Technology under Azim Premji.

It is now one of the top IT companies of India which is present in more than 100 countries of the world.

Chairman: **Rishad Premji**

Headquarters: **Mumbai**

10. For the first time, six women officers clear Defence Services Staff College examination (Nov. 17, 2022)

six women officers cleared DSSC examination.

For the first time in the history of the Indian Army **six women officers** have cleared the **Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) examination.**

Important facts

- Of the 15 women officers who appeared in this year's DSSC exam, six cleared it.
- Every year, 1,500-1,600 officers appear for this prestigious exam but only around 300 get selected.

- Six women officers will join the prestigious War College in Wellington, a move that comes after the Army granted permanent commission to women officers last year.
- They will start their academic session from April 2023.
- The DSSC course is run for Major and Lt Col equivalent ranks of the three Services.
- After the completion of the DSSC course, officers will be eligible for important staff appointments to higher ranks of the Indian Army as well as for foreign postings.

About Defence Services Staff College (DSSC)

- It is one of the oldest military institutions in India. It was set up in India in 1905 as the Army Staff College at Deolali and was relocated to Quetta, now in Pak, in 1907.
- It was shifted to Wellington in 1947 after the partition of the subcontinent.
- Many army officers have done the DSSC course, including former Chief of Defense Staff General Bipin Rawat.