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1. Abdul Latif Rashid elected as new president of Iraq (Oct. 14, 2022)

On 13 October 2022, lawmakers in **Iraq** elected **Kurdish politician Abdul Latif Rashid** as the country's new **president**. He will replace **Barham Saleh**.

Important facts

- After two rounds of voting, **160 votes** were cast in favor of Rashid, while Saleh got **99 votes**.
- Rashid, 78, is an engineer and was Iraqi Water Resources Minister from 2003 to 2010.
- He has 15 days to invite a nominee from the largest parliamentary bloc to form the government.
- The country had seen months of political stalemate after powerful Shia leader Muqtada al-Sadr emerged as the biggest winner in a parliamentary vote last year but failed to garner enough support to form a government.
- Al-Sadr withdrew his lawmakers from the House and announced in August that he would quit politics, which was followed by violence in Baghdad.

2. Golden Jubilee of PIN Code (Oct. 14, 2022)

The Minister of State for Communications, **Devusinh Chauhan** has released **Commemorative Postage Stamp** on the occasion of **Golden Jubilee of PIN Code, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat** on 12 October 2022.

Important facts

- He also launched the **e-Passbook**. It will provide the following services -

No need to visit the Post Office to print the Passbook or to know the balance.

It will save a lot of manual work.

No need to have a separate Mobile Banking app.

Simple and user-friendly webpage.

- On this occasion he launched '**PLI Mobile Training App**' to provide online training. The app contains training material in audio/visual mode.

What is PIN code or a Postal Index Number?

- In India it is a **six-digit numeric code** in the Indian Postal system.
- It was started on **15 August 1972 by Shriram Bhikaji**, the then Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Communications.

- It is used by India Post for the numbering of the post office or post code system.
- In its 6 digits code the first digit reflects the region, the second digit reflects the sub-region, the third digit reflects the district and the last three digits represent the post office code.

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4. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches 'Maa Bharati Ke Sapoot' website (Oct. 14, 2022)

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** launched '**Maa Bharti Ke Sons**' website for contribution to **Armed Forces Battle Casualty Welfare Fund** at a function held at National War Memorial Complex in **New Delhi** on October 14.

Important facts

- This fund is for the three services, which is used to provide immediate financial assistance to the families of the three forces personnel killed or grievously injured in military action.
- Rajnath Singh said that security is paramount for any society and there is an important responsibility of all sections of the society towards the welfare of brave soldiers and their families.
- He appealed to the countrymen to join this initiative and contribute for the welfare of the brave soldiers.
- Popular actor Amitabh Bachchan is the goodwill ambassador of this initiative.
- Any individual or any organisation can make a financial contribution to this fund through the website www.MAABHARATIKESAPOOT.MOD.GOV.IN.

5. India participated in the 6th East Asia Education Ministers' Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam (Oct. 14, 2022)

India participated at the 6th **East Asia Summit Education Minister's Meeting** held on 14 October, 2022 in **Hanoi, Vietnam**.

Important facts

- **Ms. Neeta Prasad**, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Education addressed the gathering through virtually.
- She informed about the key initiatives of National Education Policy 2020 and India's collaborative efforts in education and research with partner countries.
- Ms. Neeta Prasad said that the National Education Policy - 2020 is a holistic, flexible and multi-disciplinary vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for education.
- She said that this policy is based on the fundamental pillars of equity, quality, affordability and accountability.
- She informed that the **National Education Policy-2020** focuses on internationalisation of education and building cooperation with other countries.

About East Asia Summit (EAS)

- It was initiated in 2005 with the convening of the **1st East Asia Summit** in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.
- At the time of its establishment, **16 countries** had participated in the East Asia Summit.
- The United States and the Russian Federation attended the East Asia Summit in **Bali, Indonesia on 19 November 2011**.
- It refers to the meeting of the Heads of State/Government of the countries participating in the EAS which is held annually.

- It has identified **six priority areas** of cooperation which include environment and energy, education, finance, global health issues and pandemic diseases, natural disaster management and ASEAN connectivity.

6. CSIR-NAL in Bengaluru successfully conducts Drone-based magnetic survey (Oct. 14, 2022)

The **CSIR National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) in Bengaluru** successfully conducted the Drone based **magnetic survey** near Magnetic Hill and Puga Chumthang region of **Leh-Ladakh** on 14 October 2022.

Important facts

- The survey was conducted last month in association with Hyderabad-based CSIR National Geophysical Research Institute.
- NAL deployed its **octa-copter drone** which has a payload capacity of 20 kg at sea level.
- NAL's OCTA-copter drone performed as designed at an altitude of more than **3600 metres**, withstanding the harsh flight conditions of strong winds.
- The magnetometer integrated with the drone received the magnetic data and is being analysed by scientists from the **National Geophysical Research Institute**.
- The Director of NAL **Dr.Abhay A Pashilkar** said that the data will help to plan developmental activities in Ladakh region.

National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)

- It is a constituent of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), established in the **year 1959**.
- It is the only government aerospace R&D laboratory in the country's civilian sector.
- It is a highly-technology-oriented institute focusing on advanced subjects in aerospace.

7. PM Modi to chair the meeting of CSIR Society (Oct. 14, 2022)

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will chair a meeting of the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Society in New Delhi** on 15 October 2022.

Important facts

- The meeting will set goals for the next 25 years for CSIR which is a world class body in the field of science and research.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, 13 secretaries of central ministries and all secretaries of science-based ministries will also attend the meeting.

- CMDs of four PSUs, NTPC, BHEL, GAIL and HAL, three industry leaders and 12 academicians and members of the scientific community will also participate in the meeting.
- The Society meets annually to review CSIR activities and consider future programmes.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

- It is the largest research and development organisation in India in the field of science and technology.
- It has a dynamic network of **37 national laboratories, 39 outreach centres, 3 innovation complexes and 5 units.**
- It is ranked **37th out of 1587 government institutions** around the world.
- **The Chairman (ex-officio)** of CSIR is the **Prime Minister** and the **Union Minister of Science and Technology is the Vice President (ex-officio).**
- It is funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Established - **September 1942**
- Located - **New Delhi**
- Director-General of CSIR - **N Kalaiselvi**

Union Science and Technology Minister - **Jitendra Singh**

8. NHIDCL signs MoU with IIT Patna for innovation in highways construction (Oct. 14, 2022)

National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, on 14 October signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Patna** for innovative solutions collaboration in highway construction.

Important facts

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by IIT Patna Director **TN Singh** and Managing Director of NHIDCL **Chanchal Kumar.**
- NHIDCL has signed agreements with several IITs and other institutions to promote innovation in highway construction.
- It has signed MoUs with CSIR-CBRI, IIT Roorkee, IIT Kanpur and NSDC during the year 2022-23.
- Earlier, MoUs were signed with IIT Bombay and IIT Guwahati to share knowledge of innovative ideas and technologies in the field of Highway Engineering.

- This will help NHIDCL to introduce innovative technologies and find practical solutions to the issues of highway construction in challenging hilly and border areas.

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10. First National Coal Conclave and Exhibition to be held in Delhi (Oct. 14, 2022)

The **Indian National Committee World Mining Congress**, under the patronage of the **Ministry of Coal**, will organize the **first National Coal Conclave and Exhibition during 16-17 October in New Delhi**.

Important facts

- The theme of the conclave is **“Indian coal sector-sustainable mining towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat”**.
- The two-day event will provide a platform for policy makers, public and private sector mining companies.
- Researchers, academicians and other stakeholders will prepare and interact with necessary road maps for the Indian coal sector to align with the national mission of **'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'**.
- Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, **Prahlad Joshi** and Minister of State for Coal, Mines and Railways, **Raosaheb Patil Danve** will address the conclave.

- Around 150 students from the mining engineering sector are expected to participate,
- apart from senior functionaries from the Ministries of Coal, Mines, Power, Steel, NITI Aayog, Disaster Management.

Focus area of the conclave

- Self-sufficiency in power sector
- Aatmnirbharata' in steel making for coal
- Technology and sustainability