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1. 17th International Conference on Cement, Concrete and Building Materials to be held in New Delhi (Nov. 30, 2022)

17th International Conference on Cement

The National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB), under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, will organize the **17th International Conference on Cement, Concrete and Building Materials**.

The biennial Conference will be held in **New Delhi** from 6-9 December 2022.

The theme of the Conference is: Moving **towards Net Zero Carbon Emission**".

The conference will be inaugurated by **Anurag Jain**, Secretary to Government of India, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

More than 80 leading equipment manufacturers and service providers of India and the world, will also showcase their technological prowess, new products and services in a Technical Exhibition, in sync with the conference.

2. World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2022 (Nov. 29, 2022)

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2022

The **World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2022** concluded on November 25, with the **Muscat Ministerial Manifesto on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**.

Important facts

- The two-day summit, which began on November 24 in **Oman's capital Muscat**, follows two high-level summits held in the Netherlands in 2014 and 2019.
- The theme of the meeting was - **The AMR Pandemic: From Policy to One Health Action**.
- The Manifesto has been endorsed by 34 of the 45 countries that participated at the conference.

Muscat Ministerial Manifesto on AMR - three global targets

- Reduce the total amount of antimicrobials used in the agri-food system at least by 30-50% by 2030 from the current level.
- Zero use of Critically important antimicrobials (CIA).
- Ensuring that 'access' group antibiotics (a class of antibiotics that are cheaper, safer and have a lower AMR risk) represent at least 60 per cent of total antibiotic consumption in humans by 2030.

About World Antimicrobial Awareness Week

- It is a global campaign observed annually to improve awareness and understanding related to AMR.
- It encourages best practices among the public, health stakeholders and policy makers to reduce the emergence and spread of AMR.

What is Antimicrobial Resistance?

- It is the resistance acquired by any microorganism (bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites, etc.) against antimicrobial drugs (such as antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals, antimalarials, and anthelmintics) that are used to treat infections.
- As a result, standard treatments become ineffective, the infection persists and can spread to others.

3. Coal Ministry to conduct Investor Conclave in Mumbai (Nov. 29, 2022)

Coal Ministry to conduct Investor Conclave in Mumbai

In order to promote the participation of bidders in the commercial auction of coal mines, the **Ministry of Coal** will organise an **Investors Meet** on December 1, 2022 in **Mumbai**.

Important facts

- **Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi** will preside over it and Maharashtra Chief Minister **Eknath Shinde** will be the **chief guest**.
- Deputy Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** will be the Special Guest and Minister of State for Coal, Mines and Railways, **Raosaheb Patil Danve** and Minister of Mining for Maharashtra, **Dadaji Bhuse** will be the **Guest of Honour** of the function.
- Amrit Lal Meena, Secretary, Ministry of Coal and Vivek Bhardwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Mines will also participate in the Conclave.

4. Seventh edition of Global Technology Summit to be held in New Delhi from 29 November (Nov. 28, 2022)

7th Global Technology Summit

The **7th Global Technology Summit** will be held in **New Delhi** in a hybrid format from 29 November - 1 December 2022. The Summit which focuses on Geotechnology will be co-hosted by the **Ministry of External Affairs** and **Carnegie India**. The Minister for External Affairs S.Jaishankar will participate in the inaugural session of the Summit.

Geotechnology is the use of scientific study and methods in activities related to the earth, rocks, and soil, especially to the earth's mineral resources such as oil and metals.

The theme for this year's Summit is '**Geopolitics of Technology**.'

The summit will see the participation of more than 100 speaker's .Ministers and senior government officials from the US, Singapore, Japan, Nigeria, Brazil, Bhutan, the European Union, and other countries will also participate in the Summit.

5. First China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development Cooperation held in China, India not invited (Nov. 27, 2022)

India not invited First in China-Indian Ocean Region Forum

According to the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) a meeting of the China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development Cooperation took place on 21 November 2022, in which 19 countries took part. **India was not invited by the Chinese.**

The meeting was held in a hybrid manner under the theme of "Shared Development: Theory and Practice from the Perspective of the Blue Economy" in Kunming, Yunnan Province of China.

According to CIDCA at the November 21 meeting, China has proposed to establish a marine disaster prevention and mitigation cooperation mechanism between China and countries in the Indian Ocean region.

Countries which participated in the Chinese forum

The following 19 countries participated in the meeting; Indonesia, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Afghanistan, Iran, Oman, South Africa, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius, Djibouti, Australia and representatives of 3 international organisations.

Maldives denies participating in the meeting

The Maldives Foreign ministry in a statement issued on 27 November 2022 has denied participating in the meeting .It said that it had officially communicated to the Chinese government its inability to participate in the forum.

Chinese attempt to counter Indian influence in the region

According to experts, the Chinese forum is apparently aimed at countering India's strong influence in the Indian Ocean region where India-backed organisations like the 23 members Indian Ocean Rim Association, (IORA) have taken strong roots. China is a dialogue partner in the IORA formed in 1997.

The Indian Navy-backed Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), established in 2007, is a premier forum for cooperation and collaboration among navies of littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

Chinese effort to increase its influence in the Indian Ocean region

China is trying its influence in the strategic Indian Ocean region with substantial investments in ports and infrastructure investments in several countries, including Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

China has established a full-fledged naval base in Djibouti, its first outside the country. Beijing has acquired the Hambantota port in Sri Lanka on a 99-year lease besides building the port at Pakistan's **Gwadar** in the Arabian Sea opposite India's western coast.

6. India is hosting the 59th ABU General Assembly 2022 from 25th to 30th November' 2022 (Nov. 26, 2022)

59th ABU General Assembly 2022

The government of India owned public broadcaster [Prasar Bharti](#) which owns the All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD) is hosting the **59th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) General Assembly 2022** from 25th to 30th November 2022 in **New Delhi**. Prasar Bharti was set up in 1997 by an act of Parliament.

Prasar Bharati CEO **Gaurav Dwivedi** said that around 300 international delegates from 40 countries representing 50 organizations are participating in the event.

Theme of the 59th ABU General Assembly is: **Serving the People: Media's Role in Times of Crisis.**

The ABU (Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union) was set up in 1964 is a non-profit, professional association of the broadcasting organizations of Asia and Pacific region.

The ABU has over 250 members in over 70 countries on four continents.

The headquarters of ABU: **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.**

7. Udaipur to host first G20 Sherpa Meeting in India from 4 to 7 December (Nov. 25, 2022)

Udaipur to host first G20 Sherpa Meeting in India

Udaipur city in Rajasthan will host the first [G-20 Sherpa](#) Meeting in India from 4 to 7 December 2022. The Sherpa's are the personal emissaries of the leaders of the members of the G-20 group. The G-20 Sherpa meeting will be presided by the Indian Sherpa **Amitabh Kant**.

India will formally assume the [presidency](#) of the G-20 on 1 December 2022. India as a host nation will set the agenda of the G-20 summit meeting to be held in September 2023 in New Delhi.

Before the summit meeting of the top leaders of the G-20 countries a number of meetings are held to prepare the agenda for the leaders.

The Sherpa's oversee negotiations over the course of the year, discussing agenda items for the Summit and coordinating the substantive work of the G20.

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. India will be holding the G20 Presidency from 1 December 2022 and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time.

Udaipur

It was founded in 1559 by **Udai Singh II** of the Sisodia clan of Rajput's.

It is popularly known as the "**City of Lakes**". It has seven lakes surrounding the city. The 7 lakes of Udaipur are; Fateh Sagar Lake. Lake Pichola. Udaisagar Lake. Jaisamand Lake (Dhebar Lake), Rajsamand Lake. Badi Lake (Jiyan Sagar), Doodh Talai (Milk Pond), Swaroop Sagar Lake (Khumaria Talab).

8. India's proposal for enhance protection to Leith's softshell turtle adopted at wildlife summit in Panama (Nov. 25, 2022)

protection to Leith's softshell turtle

India's proposal for enhancing protection status to **Leith's softshell turtle** has been adopted at the ongoing **world wildlife conference in Panama**, the Union Environment Ministry said on 24 November.

Important facts

- India has strengthened protection to Leith's Soft-shelled Turtle under the [**Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species \(CITES\)**](#).
- Leith's soft-shelled turtle is a large freshwater soft-shelled turtle that is **endemic to peninsular India** and is found in rivers and reservoirs.
- It has been illegally hunted and consumed within India.
- It has also been **illegally traded** abroad for the meat and its calypso.
- The population of this turtle species has been estimated to have **declined by 90%** over the past 30 years, making the species difficult to find.
- It is classified as '**critically endangered**' by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.
- The species is listed in **Schedule IV** of the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**, which protects it from hunting as well as its trade.
- Placing the listing of this turtle species on **CITES Appendix I** will ensure that legal international trade in these species does not occur for commercial purposes.
- The 19th meeting of the COP for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is being held in Panama from 14 to 25 November 2022.

9. India expresses commitment to peace, security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region (Nov. 25, 2022)

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

India participated in the **22nd Council of Ministers's meeting** of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** held at **Dhaka in Bangladesh** on 23 November, 2022.

Important facts

- India voiced its strong commitment to the strengthening of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) to promote peace, security and prosperity in the **Indian Ocean Region and in the Indo-Pacific**.
- The Indian delegation was led by Minister of State for External Affairs **Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh**.
- He also highlighted India's contribution as coordinator of IORA priority areas of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and science, technology and innovation for capacity building and strengthening of IORA Secretariat.
- On the challenges posed by climate change, the Minister highlighted the **initiatives of LiFE** - Lifestyle for Environment and International Year of Millet in 2023.

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- It is an international organisation consisting of coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean.
- It has been formed with the aim of increasing cooperation among the countries of the Indian Ocean Region and making joint efforts for sustainable development.
- It includes **21 countries** along the coast of the Indian Ocean including India and **7 dialogue partners**.
- **These 21 countries** include India, Australia, Iran, Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Malaysia, South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Singapore, Mauritius, Madagascar, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Seychelles, Somalia, Comoros and Oman.
- It was formed in 1997 and its secretariat is in **Mauritius**.

10. 9th India-EU Foreign Policy Security Consultations held in New Delhi (Nov. 23, 2022)

9th India-EU Foreign Policy Security Consultations

The **9th India-EU Foreign Policy Security Consultations** were held in **New Delhi** on 22 November, 2022.

Important facts

- Both sides discussed the functioning of various institutional mechanisms between India and the EU including cyber security, counter terrorism and maritime security.
- The consultations were co-chaired by **Secretary (West), MEA, Sanjay Verma**, and Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs, European External Action Service, **Enrique Mora**.

- Both sides expressed satisfaction at the growing intensity and political momentum in India-EU relations.
- They took stock of key bilateral developments including the **India-EU Trade and Technology Council** announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and **European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** in April this year.
- They also welcomed the progress in negotiations on the **India-EU Trade and Investment Agreement** in line with the decision taken during the Leaders' meeting in May last year.
- They agreed on the need for greater ambition in the implementation of the **India-EU Connectivity Partnership**.
- The two sides also reviewed the functioning of various institutional mechanisms between India and the EU, including on cyber security, counter-terrorism and maritime security.