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1. National Conference on Tourist Police Scheme held in New Delhi (Oct. 19, 2022)

Tourist Police Scheme held in New Delhi

The Union Ministry of Tourism in coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) organised the National Conference on Tourist Police Scheme in **New Delhi** on 19 October 2022.

The conference was addressed by the Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla**, Union Minister for Tourism **G. Kishan Reddy** and others.

Status of Tourism in India

According to the Tourism Statistics 2022 released by the Union Ministry of Tourism;

- The total number of domestic tourists in 2021 was **677.63 million** as compared to 610.22 million in 2020, an increase of 11.05 percent.
- **Tamilnadu received** the maximum number of domestic tourists (140.65 million) followed by Uttar Pradesh (86.12 million).
- Due to restrictions related to COVID-19, the number of **Foreign Tourists** visiting India during 2021 decreased to 1.52 million as compared to 2.74 million in 2020, registering a negative growth of 44.5%.
- The favourite destination of the foreign tourists in 2021 was **Tamilnadu** (1.26 million tourists) followed by Maharashtra (1.23 million).
- India received maximum foreign tourists from the **United States of America** followed by Bangladesh, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Nepal.
- In 2021, foreign exchange earnings from tourism were **US \$ 8.797 billion** as compared to US\$ 6.959 billion in 2020, registering a positive growth of 26.4%.

2. PM launches Gujarat government's Mission Schools of Excellence at Trimandir, Adalaj, Gujarat (Oct. 19, 2022)

Schools of Excellence at Trimandir

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched **Mission Schools of Excellence** at **Trimandir, Adalaj**, Gujarat on 19 October 2022. The Mission will help strengthen education infrastructure in Gujarat by setting up new classrooms, smart classrooms, computer labs and overall upgradation of the infrastructure of schools in the State. During the event at Trimandir, the Prime Minister also launched projects worth around Rs 4260 crores.

Mission Schools of Excellence

It is a five **year** Gujarat government project that aims to improve the quality of education in the state. It is a World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) funded project.

Budget of the project

The total budget for the mission is **Rs 10,000 crore**. World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will provide a loan of Rs **7,500 crore** for the Gujarat government's Mission School of Excellence project.

Aim of the Project

- It will cover all 35,133 government and 5,847 grant-in-aid schools in the state.
- The funds will be spent on building 50,000 new classrooms, creating 1.5 lakh smart classrooms, 20,000 new computer labs and 5,000 Atal tinkering labs in 41,000-odd government and grant-in-aid schools across the state.
- It is estimated that nearly one crore school students will benefit directly from this ambitious project in the next five years.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

- It is a multilateral development bank which was set up in 2016.
- Its area of operation is in Asia and it provides loans to build Infrastructure of tomorrow - green infrastructure with sustainability, innovation and connectivity at its core.
- However its members are from around the world. At present it has **104 member countries**.
- China is the majority shareholder of the bank and India is the second largest shareholder of the bank
- The United States and Japan are not the members of the bank
- AIIB has given maximum loans to India

Current President of the Bank: **Jin Liqun of China.**

Headquarters: **Beijing, China**

3. Madhya Pradesh to develop Meghdoot forest in Ujjain (Oct. 19, 2022)

Meghdoot forest in Ujjain

Madhya Pradesh government will develop land freed from illegal encroachments in and around Mahakal temple in Ujjain as an urban forest called as Meghdoot. It is being built under the second phase of [Shri Mahakal Lok project](#).

The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** performed bhoomipujan for the proposed Meghdoot forest in Ujjain on 18 October 2022.

Mahakal Lok project has been launched by the Madhya Pradesh Government to develop the Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain on the model of Kashi Vishwanath in Varanasi. The first phase of the Mahakal Lok project was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12 October 2022.

Meghdoot forest

The Madhya Pradesh government has freed about 7 acres of land around the temple area which was under illegal encroachment. This area will be developed by the Ujjain Smart City as an urban forest named Meghdoot, at a cost of Rs 11.36 crore.

In the Meghdoot forest, there will be a beautiful entrance area, greenery area, walkways, along with seating, restaurant and a beautiful environment on the river banks.

Madhya Pradesh

It is the second largest state area wise in India after Rajasthan.

According to the Indian State of Forest Report -2021, Madhya Pradesh has the **largest forest cover** in the country area wise.

25.14 % of its area is under forest cover.

4. Asia's largest Compressed Bio Gas plant inaugurated in Sangrur by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri (Oct. 18, 2022)

The Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated **Asia's largest Compressed Bio Gas (CBG)** plant in **Lehragaga, Sangrur**, and Punjab on 18 October 2022.

The plant has been set up by German company Verbio AG at an investment of Rs 220 crore. Initially the plant will have the production of 6 tonnes per day of CBG which is likely to be increased to 33 tonnes per day of CBG.

Benefit of the Compressed BioGas (CBG) plant

The plant will procure 1 lakh tonnes of paddy straw from farmers thereby providing them an additional source of income.

The paddy stubble which is burnt by the farmers in the field will now be used in the plant thereby reducing pollution in the surrounding areas.

This Plant will reduce stubble burning of 40,000 - 45,000 acres of fields, translating into an annual reduction of 150,000 tons of CO2 emissions,

The plant will produce about 600-650 Tons of Fermented Organic Manure per day, which can be used for organic farming.

What is a compressed biogas plant?

Waste/Bio-mass sources like agricultural residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, municipal solid waste, sewage treatment plant waste, etc. produce Bio-Gas through the process of anaerobic decomposition.

The Bio-Gas is purified to remove hydrogen sulphide (H₂S), carbon dioxide (CO₂), water vapour and compressed as Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG), which has methane (CH₄) content of more than 90%.

CBG has calorific value and other properties similar to CNG and hence can be utilized as green renewable automotive fuel.

Thus it can replace CNG in automotive, industrial and commercial areas, given the abundance of biomass availability within the country.

5. 12th Defence Expo dedicated to Indian defence companies to be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 18 October to 20 October (Oct. 17, 2022)

India's flagship exhibition on Land, Naval and Homeland Security systems, Defence Expo 2022 will be held in Gandhinagar, **Gujarat**, from 18-22 October 2022. Earlier the 12th Defence expo was proposed to be held in the month of March 2022 but was postponed due to the

logistics problems being experienced by participants. The **11th Defence expo was held in Lucknow in 2022.**

Theme of the Defence Expo 2022

The theme of the 12th Defence Expo is **Path to Pride**

Defence Ministers explains the theme of the defence expo 2022

Speaking at the curtain raiser press conference in Gandhinagar on 17 October 2022, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that 'Path to Pride' was not just a theme of DefExpo 2022, but a 'Make in India, Make for the World' vision of a 'New India'.

He said that the DefExpo 2022 during 'Amrit Kaal' reflects India's resolve to be among the leading nations in the defence & aerospace sectors in the next 25 years.

First time defence expo exclusively for Indian companies

For the first time only Indian companies have been invited for the defence expo. Foreign defence companies which have set up a joint venture with Indian companies can also participate in the expo. A record 1340 companies are participating in the expo.

For the first time, States/Union Territories (UTs) have been invited to set up pavilions at the event.

International participation

Seventy five (75) countries have confirmed their participation in the DefExpo 2022.

The defence minister will host the **second India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD)** on October 18, while **the Indian Ocean Region plus (IOR+) conclave** will take place on October 19.

More than 53 African countries have been invited for IADD and 44 for IOR+ conclave.

Defence Expo

It is organised by the Union Ministry of Defence. The main purpose behind the expo is to promote defence exports from India as well as invite foreign companies to explore defence tie-ups and business in India.

Traditionally, the Defence expo has been held in New Delhi every two years

Later it was shifted to Panaji, Goa (2016), Chennai (2018) and **Lucknow (2020).**

6. 3rd edition of Confederation of Indian Industry's renewable energy conference starts in New Delhi (Oct. 17, 2022)

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India is organising the **3rd edition of the International Conference & Exhibition on 'Pathways for Global Partnership in Green Energy: Powering Atma Nirbhar Bharat & the World'** in **New Delhi** from 17-19 October 2022 .

This initiative aims at furthering global partnership and take concerted steps to develop green economy and unified to power a clean and green world.

The Union Minister for Commerce and Industry **Piyush Goel** addressed the conference and said that “India has the potential to grow into a global supplier of renewable energy equipment”. He reiterated India’s commitment to achieve **500 GW renewable energy generation by 2030**.

PM Modi has announced India’s commitment to **carbon net-zero by 2070**. Also, India has set a target to achieve **50% renewables in the overall energy mix by 2030**.

While Aatmanirbhar Bharat or self-reliant India focuses on elevating domestic manufacturing capabilities and reinforcing net-zero targets, it also has immense potential to be the global epicentre for renewable energy and green hydrogen ecosystem.

Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)

It is a business lobby group of top business houses in India.

It was set up in 1895.

It works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the growth of industry in India, partnering industry and government alike through advisory and consultative processes.

Headquarters: **New Delhi**

President: Sanjiv Bajaj

7. Maharashtra wins men and women’s team won the 2nd Goalball National Championship (Oct. 17, 2022)

Maharashtra’s men and women’s team won the 2nd Goalball National Championship held at Maharishi Dayanand University **Rohtak**, Haryana. In both the men’s and women’s final played at Rohtak on 16 October 2022, the Maharashtra team defeated the Uttarakhand men and women’s team.

The 3 day (14-16 October) 2nd Goalball National championship 2022 was organised by the Goalball federation of India in Rohtak and saw the participation of 10 teams .

Goalball is a Paralympic sport which is played by blind sportspeople.

8. Harshada Garud sole Indian medal winner at the Asian Weightlifting Championships 2022 (Oct. 16, 2022)

Junior world champion **Harshada Garud** was India’s sole medallist among the 12-member Indian contingent at the Asian Weightlifting Championships 2022 tournament which concluded on 16 October 2022 at **Manama, Bahrain**.

She won the bronze medals in the snatch section and the overall section of the women’s 45kg category. This was Harshada Garud’s first international medal at the senior level.

The Asian Weightlifting Championships was organized by the Asian Weightlifting Federation at **Manama**, Bahrain from 6 to 16 October 2022.

Asian Weightlifting Federation

It was set up in 1958 in Tokyo, Japan.

It governs the weightlifting sports in Asia.

45 countries of Asia are its member

Headquarters: **Bangkok**, Thailand

9. Union Home Minister Amit Shah launches Hindi version of MBBS book in Bhopal (Oct. 16, 2022)

Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Home Minister **Amit Shah**, who is on a day-long visit to Madhya Pradesh launched India's first Hindi version of MBBS course books in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on 16 October 2022. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, was also present during the launch event.

First medical college to offer bilingual MBBS course

Gandhi Medical College Bhopal became the first medical college in Madhya Pradesh and India to offer MBBS courses in both Hindi as well as in English medium, starting 2022-23 session. The book which has been launched in will be first used in the Gandhi Medical College.

Initially, three subjects have been selected to be studied in Hindi which includes **anatomy**, **physiology**, and **biochemistry**.

First State to offer bilingual MMBS course

Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country to start the MBBS course in Hindi language. The state government intends to extend the bilingual medium of education in the medical field to all the medical colleges in the state.

In 2021 on a visit to Assam Prime Minister Modi has called to establish at least one medical college and one technical college in every Indian state which would impart higher education in regional languages.

Madhya Pradesh State

- Madhya Pradesh, with an area of 3, 08, 000 sq.km. Is the **second largest state** in India after Rajasthan.
- After Independence 25 princely states were merged to create a Madhya Bharat State on May 28, 1948.
- After the reorganization of states in 1956 it was renamed as **Madhya Pradesh on 1 November 1956**.
- On 1 November 2000, Chhattisgarh state was formed by dividing the state of Madhya Pradesh
- It is bounded by the states of **Uttar Pradesh** to the northeast, **Chhattisgarh** to the southeast, **Maharashtra** to the south, **Gujarat** to the southwest, and **Rajasthan** to the northwest.

Capital: Bhopal

- **State Symbol of the Madhya Pradesh**
- The State bird of Madhya Pradesh is “**Dhudraj**” the Asian Paradise Flycatcher.
- The State tree of Madhya Pradesh is the “**Banyan**”.
- The State animal of Madhya Pradesh in the “**Barasingha**” also called swamp deer.
- The State fish of Madhya Pradesh is “**Mahasheer**”, locally known as Mahasheer Baudas.

10. Piyush Goel addresses the valedictory session of the National Intellectual Property Conference 2022 (Oct. 15, 2022)

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, **Piyush Goyal while** addressing the Valedictory Session of National Intellectual Property Conference 2022 said that India aims to be among the top 10 nations in the Global Innovation Index (GII).

He said that India had made massive gains, jumping from the 81st rank in 2015 to the **40th rank in 2022**. Giving protection to the creator of the intellectual property will further innovations in India. He expressed confidence that collective efforts of government, academia, industry, legal fraternity and technology ecosystem will help us achieve this goal.

Organiser of the National Intellectual Property Conference 2022

The National Intellectual Property Conference 2022 was organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry in **New Delhi** on 14 and 15th October.

Theme of the conference

The Theme of the National Intellectual Property Conference 2022 : **Strengthening IP Ecosystem for Catalyzing the growth of Knowledge Economy**

The objective of the conference is to bring the IP Officers, Creators and Practitioners on one platform to discuss futuristic IP challenges related to developmental issues.

Intellectual Property Rights

Intellectual property rights are the rights given to persons/companies over the creations of their minds. They usually give the creator an exclusive right over the use of his/her creation for a certain period of time. For e.g. Development of a new software or discovery of new medicine.

Some of the important types of Intellectual Property Rights

Patent

A patent is a government-granted monopoly to the inventor to build, sell, and use an invention and prevent others using it without the permission of the patent holder. Normally a patent granted to an inventor is for 20 years. After 20 years patents expire and anybody can copy that invention.

Trademarks

A trademark can be any word, phrase, symbol, design, or combination of these things that identifies a person or company's goods or services in the marketplace. A trademark is used for goods; a "service mark" is used for services.

Copyrights

Copyrights protect original works of authorship, such as paintings, photographs, musical compositions, sound recordings, computer programs, books, blog posts, movies, architectural works, and plays.

World Intellectual Property day is celebrated around the world on 26 April.