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1. Union Ministry of Home Affairs will organize a Chintan shivir of Home Ministers in Haryana (Oct. 26, 2022)

Chintan shivir of Home Ministers in Haryana

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs will organises a two day (27-28 October 2022) Chintan Shivir at **Surajkund**, Haryana. The Chintan shivir will be presided by the Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, **Amit Shah**. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will address the Chintan Shivir through video conferencing on October 28, 2022.

Who will participate in the Chintan Shivir

Home Ministers of all States and Lieutenant Governors and Administrators of Union Territories have been invited to participate in the two-day Chintan Shivir.

State Home Secretaries, Director Generals of Police and Director Generals of Central Armed Police Forces and Central Police Organizations will also participate in the Chintan Shivir.

Objective of the Chintan Shivir

- The objective of the two-day Chintan Shivir is to prepare an Action Plan for the implementation of "Vision 2047" and 'Panch Pran' announced in the Independence Day speech of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.
- In the conference of Home Ministers, development of eco-system for cybercrime management, modernization of police forces, increase in usage of IT in criminal justice system, land border management and coastal security and other internal security issues will be discussed.
- The role of 'Nari Shakti' is important to achieve the goal of 'Developed India by 2047' and special emphasis will be given to the safety of women and creating a safe environment for them.
- The aim of the Conference is also to facilitate national policy making and better planning and coordination in the above mentioned areas.

2. Global Leaders Commit US\$ 2.6 Billion At World Health Summit To End Polio (Oct. 21, 2022)

Summit To End Polio

Global leaders announced **USD 2.6 billion** funding for the 'Global Polio Eradication Initiative' (GPEI) 2022-2026 strategy to eradicate polio at the World Health Summit in Berlin.

World Health Summit (WHS)

- It is an international health conference.
- It aims to strengthen exchanges, promote innovative solutions to health challenges, establish global health as a major political issue, and promote dialogue on global health in the spirit of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

What is Polio?

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- Polio is a potentially fatal viral infectious disease that affects the nervous system.
- There are three types of polio virus-
- 1. Wild Polio Virus 1 (WPV1)
- 2. Wild Polio Virus 2 (WPV2)
- 3. Wild Polio Virus 3 (WPV3)
- All three types are similar depending on the symptoms and can cause paralysis and death.
- The virus spreads from person to person mainly through the 'faecal-oral route' or through contaminated water or food.

3. Dehradun to host 3-day "Akash for Life" Space Conference in November (Oct. 20, 2022)

Akash for Life

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr **Jitendra Singh** said that the 3-day "Akash for Life" Space Conference will be held in **Dehradun**, Uttarakhand from 5-7 November 2022.

ISRO and all major scientific ministries and departments of the government of India in collaboration with Vijnana Bharati will organize this National conference. Vijnana Bharati is a dynamic Science Movement with a Swadeshi Spirit, interlinking traditional and modern sciences on the one hand, and natural and spiritual sciences on the other hand.

The Government of India is organizing a campaign **"Sumangalam**" across the country for finding solutions to the environmental issues with an Indian perspective based on traditional knowledge.

Panchmahabhoot

In a blend of the modern and the traditional knowledge, the government of India is going to organise five national conventions across the country on the **Panchmahabhoot-** the five elements for solving environmental issues for the betterment of society.

In the traditional knowledge system the human body or the universe is made of Panchmahabhoot. It consists of Aakash, Vaayu Jal, Prithvi and Agni.

The government of India is organising the first conference based on Panchmahabhoot-Akash or Space in Dehradun.

4. Government to organise Kashi-Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi (Oct. 20, 2022)

Kashi-Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi

The government of India will organize 'Kashi-Tamil Sangamam' from 16th November to 19th December 2022 in **Varanasi (Kashi)**. This was announced by the Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** along with the Minister of State, Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying **L. Murugan** in New Delhi

Aim of the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam'

The main aim of the 'Kashi-Tamil Sangamam is to rediscover, reaffirm and celebrate the ageold links between Tamil culture and Kashi that have existed since centuries.

The broader objective is to bring the two Knowledge and Cultural traditions closer, create an understanding of our shared heritage and deepen the people-to-people bond between the regions.

The Sangamam to be organised under the overall framework and spirit of **"Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat**" will create a bridge between ancient India and contemporary generation.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

It has been launched by the Government of India to enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding between people of different states/UTs through the concept of state/UT pairing.

The states carry out activities to promote a sustained and structured cultural connection in the areas of language learning, culture, traditions & music, tourism & cuisine, sports and sharing of best practices, etc.

The Union Ministry of Education is the **nodal ministry** for the programme.

5. 10th Heads of Missions Conference starts in Kevadia, Gujarat (Oct. 20, 2022)

10th Heads of Missions Conference

The Ministry of External Affairs is organizing its 10th Heads of Missions Conference in **Kevadia,** Gujarat, from 20-22 October 2022. The Conference will bring together 118 Heads of Indian Missions (Ambassadors and High Commissioners) from all over the world.

The conference is always presided over by the Union External affairs Minister and this year **S.Jaishankar** presided over the meeting.

The event is a platform for the government to brief the country's top diplomats on ways to promote India's interests abroad.

This year <u>Prime Minister Modi</u> who was on a two day (19-20) Visit to Gujarat also participated in the meeting.

Difference between Ambassador and High Commissioner

Every country appoints a senior diplomat to a foreign country to represent the government in that country. The senior diplomat is called Ambassador or High Commissioner.

High Commissioner

If the country is a member of the Commonwealth and sends its diplomat to a fellow Commonwealth country then the senior diplomat will be called as High Commissioner. For eg.

India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, as both the countries are members of the Commonwealth.

Ambassador

If the senior diplomat is appointed to a non-commonwealth country then he/she is called as Ambassador. For eg. India's ambassador to Russia, United States of America, and France etc. These countries are not members of the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth of Nations

Commonwealth is an association of Independent countries who were once part of the British Empire. However there are some countries like Rwanda, Mozambique, Gabon and Togo who were never part of the British Empire but still are the members of the Commonwealth.

At present **56 countries** are its members and the monarch of Britain is the head of the Commonwealth.

6. 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 Delh**i 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%.

7. 14th World Spice Congress to be held on 16-18 February in Maharashtra (Oct. 19, 2022)

14th World Spice Congress

The 14th World Spice Congress (WSC), organised by Spices Board India in association with various trade and export farmers will be held on 16-18 February at CIDCO Exhibition and Convention Centre, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Important facts

- Organised by Spice Board India, this biennial event is the premier forum that brings together the global spice industry to deliberate on the problems and prospects in the spice sector.
- The event will deliberate on aspects such as production, processing, value addition, quality and safety, trade and supply chain management of spices in the new normalcy.
- The Spice Board is organising the World Spice Congress as G20 during India's G20 Presidency for the period from December 2022 to November 2023, with a greater focus on further strengthening India's trade ties with the G20 countries.
- 14th World Spice Congress **Theme 'Vision 2030: SPICES' (Sustainability-Productivity Innovation Collaboration- Excellence and Safety).**"

About World Spice Congress

- It is a conglomerate of the global spice industry, which in its three decades long presence has become the most appropriate forum to deliberate upon the concerns and views of the sector.
- It is organised under the leadership of the Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- It was established in 1990.
- Spices Board (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) is the premier organisation for the development and worldwide promotion of Indian spices.

8. Jyotiraditya Scindia chairs the Conference of the Ministers of Civil Aviation of States and Union Territories (Oct. 18, 2022)

The Union Minister for Civil Aviation **Jyotiraditya Scindia** chaired the two-day (17-18 October 2022) Conference of the Ministers of Civil Aviation on 18 October 2022. The conference was and co-chaired by Minister of State, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Gen. (Rtd.) Vijay Kumar Singh.

The Conference of the Ministers of Civil Aviation has been organised by the **Union Ministry** of Civil Aviation in New Delhi.

The objective of the two day conference series was to promote greater collaboration and synergy between State Civil Aviation departments and Ministry of Civil Aviation to augment and develop the civil aviation sector.

Speaking on the occasion Scindia stated that the cost of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) remains a challenge as it constitutes 45-50% cost in airline operations. He thanked 28 States, which have brought down Value Added Tax (VAT) on ATF to 1-4%. He also urged the remaining 8 States to bring down the VAT so that the barriers to growth are removed.

Expansion of Airports

On the issue of airports, the Minister said that in next four years, about Rs 95,000 crore are likely to be invested by the Government and the private sector, which includes greenfield as well as brownfield airports.

The Airports Authority of India is working on expansion of about 40 airports and setting up of 3-4 new Greenfield airports. Similarly, private sector is also working on 60 brownfield and 3 Greenfield airports.

In last 8 years, the number of airports has gone up from 74 to 141 (including helipads and waterdromes) and the number is likely to cross 200 in next 4-5 years.

9. Conference of the Secretaries of Civil Aviation (Oct. 18, 2022)

The **Conference of Civil Aviation Secretaries** of all States and Union Territories was organised by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** on 17 October 2022 at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.**

Important facts

- The inaugural session was presided over by Rajiv Bansal, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.
- Presiding over the inaugural session, Rajiv Bansal said that a lot of progress has been made in the aviation sector in the last year.
- He said domestic air traffic is almost near the pre-Covid level, many new airports have been inaugurated and new routes have been started.
- The government has taken several steps to promote drones, helicopter medical emergency services and fractional ownership, he said.
- During the conference, requested the states to reduce VAT on Aviation Turbine Fuel, ATF and appreciated the states which have already done so.
- Civil Aviation Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** addressed the Conference.

Objective of the conference

• The objective of the conference is to promote greater cooperation and synergy between the State Civil Aviation Departments and the Ministry of Civil Aviation to enhance the development of the civil aviation sector.

Government Initiatives in Civil Aviation sector

- National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016
- UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme
- The Government has allocated INR 10,667 crore for the Ministry of Civil Aviation in Union **Budget 2022-23.**

The government has allowed 100% FDI under automatic route for greenfield projects, while 74% FDI is allowed under automatic route for brownfield projects.

10. 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 17October 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 tieups 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).

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