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### **1. Nirmala Sitharaman returns to India after a six day visit to the United States ( Oct. 17, 2022 )**

Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** returned to India after a successful 6 days (11-16 October 2022) visit to the United States of America. She was in America to attend the **46th Annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank meeting held at Washington D.C. from 10-16 October 2022.**

The minister also attended G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting. India will take over the chairmanship of the [G-20](#) from Indonesia after a summit meeting in November 2022.

She also met the US Treasury Secretary **Janet Yellen** and World Bank President **David Malpass**.

### **Annual Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group meeting**

The Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group (WBG) normally meet once a year to discuss the work of their respective institutions. The Annual Meetings, which generally take place in September/October, have customarily been held in Washington for two consecutive years and in another member country in the third year.

### **The 2023 Annual meeting will be held in Marrakech, Morocco.**

The Annual Meetings include meetings of the Development Committee, the International Monetary and Financial Committee, the Group of Ten, the Group of Twenty-Four, and various other constituencies.

The Inaugural Meeting of the Boards of Governors was held in Savannah, Georgia, USA in March 1946. The first Annual Meetings were held in Washington in 1946.

### **International Monetary Fund and World Bank**

The International Monetary Fund and World Bank were set up in 1944 after an International conference held at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States in 1944.

Both the international financial institutions are also called **Bretton Woods twins** or **Bretton Woods's sisters**.

### **Both the institutions were set up to perform different functions.**

The IMF was set up to provide loans to the member countries facing a balance of payment crisis.

The World Bank provides loans to the member countries for development purposes.

At present **189 countries** are members of the IMF. Country which is a member of the IMF, automatically becomes a member of the World Bank.

Both the institutions headquarters are at **Washington D.C, United States of America**

### **World Bank Group**

The World Bank was initially called the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). It was set up to provide loans to the countries for economic development purposes. Later on the World Bank created new institutions according to the emerging different needs of the member countries.

**At present the World groups includes five institutions:**

- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD),
- International Financial Corporation (IFC),
- International Development Assistance (IDA),
- Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and
- International Center for Settlement of International Dispute (ICSID).

## **2. 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

## **3. India to host 90th General Assembly of INTERPOL ( Oct. 17, 2022 )**

India will host the **90th General Assembly** of the International Criminal Police Organisation, **INTERPOL**, in **New Delhi** from October 18 to 21, 2022.

### Important facts

- The General Assembly is the highest governing body of Interpol consisting of representatives of **195 member states**. Its meeting is held once a year.
- The General Assembly is being held in India **after 25 years**, last held in **1997** on the occasion of India's 75th Independence Day celebrations.
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** proposed the event to **Interpol Secretary General Jurgen Stock** during an official visit to New Delhi in August 2019.

### Agenda of the meeting

- The agenda is expected to include presentations, workshops and discussions on the following subjects -
  1. The future of policing
  2. Policing and today's crimes

### What is INTERPOL?

- The International Criminal Police Organisation, or Interpol, is an intergovernmental organisation with **194 members**.
- It was formed in **1923** as the International Criminal Police Commission, and it was named Interpol in **1956**.
- India joined **Interpol in 1949**, and is one of its oldest members.
- It is the **world's largest international police organisation**.
- Its work focuses on public safety and combating terrorism, crimes against humanity, genocide, war crimes, environmental crimes, etc.
- Headquartered - **Lyon, France**

### What is the Interpol General Assembly?

- It is the supreme governing body of Interpol, and consists of representatives of all its member states.
- Each country is represented in the Assembly by one or more representatives, who are usually the heads of law enforcement agencies.
- The General Assembly also elects the members of the Interpol Executive Committee.

#### **4. 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.**

**5. Rajnath Singh calls for an open and rule based maritime border at the 18th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting 2022 ( Oct. 15, 2022 )**

Addressing the 18th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) in **New Delhi** on October 15, 2022, Defence minister Rajnath Singh reaffirmed India's resolve for open, free and rule-based maritime borders in the Indo-Pacific region.

**Organiser of the 18th HACGAM 2022**

The 18th HACGAM is being organised by the [Indian Coast Guard](#) in coordination with HACGAM secretariat from October 14-18, 2022 in New Delhi.

The **17th HACGAM was hosted by Vietnam Coast Guard** virtually in 2021. The **1st HACGAM was hosted by Japan Coast Guard in 2004 at Tokyo**.

**Minister' speech**

Speaking on the occasion the minister said that oceanic space should be respected as a global common for the benefit of all humanity in an environmentally sustainable way. The minister stressed that India's shared vision of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth of All in Region), Sustainable Development Goals and 'Rule Based Order at Sea' complement the focused Indian approach of inclusive growth and lasting collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region.

**Participants of the meeting**

A total of 55 representatives from 18 countries and two International Organisations - Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) & United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime- Global Maritime Crime Programme (UNODC-GMCP) - are participating in the meeting.

**Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM)**

The HACGAM is a multilateral forum of 23 countries; Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye, Vietnam and one Region i.e. Hong Kong (China).

Additionally, two international organisations Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) & United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime- Global Maritime Crime Programme (UNODC-GMCP) are its members.

**Indian Coast Guard**

It was set up in 1977 and it comes under the Ministry of Defence

Director-General: **Virender Singh Pathania**

**6. Coconut Community Farmers' Conference ( Oct. 15, 2022 )**

On October 14, 2022, the '**Coconut Community Farmers' Conference**' was organised in **Coimbatore**.

**Important facts**

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, **Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated the Conference.
- Tomar said that the government would continue to provide all possible assistance to the farmers in the coastal states to promote coconut cultivation in the country.
- Efforts made in the field of research and development in recent years have resulted in the development of new technologies in farming and processing as well as improvements in existing technologies.
- With the increase in the number of coconut based industries in the country, new products and employment opportunities are also increasing.
- The contribution of coconut cultivation in the agricultural economy is very important. India is a leader in coconut cultivation.

**Coconut production in India**

- India is one of the **third largest producers of coconut** in the world.
- **Tamil Nadu ranks first** in coconut processing activities.
- **Coimbatore ranks first in terms of area under coconut cultivation**, where coconut is cultivated in an area of 88,467 hectares.
- Support is being provided for setting up 537 new processing units in India with a processing capacity of 3,638 million coconuts per annum, of which 136 are in Tamil Nadu.
- **Indonesia is the world's leading coconut producer**, The **Philippines** is the world's **second** largest producer of coconuts.

**7. 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.

### **8. 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2023 website launched to start online registration ( Oct. 13, 2022 )**

The website for the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention was jointly launched on 13 October 2022 by the External Affairs Minister, **Dr. S. Jaishankar** and the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.

The launch of the PBD website ([pbdindia.gov.in](http://pbdindia.gov.in)) marks the commencement of online registration for participation in the PBD Convention 2023.

Pravasi refers to the Indians who are working abroad (Non Resident Indians) or persons of Indian origin who have taken up the citizenship of other countries.

### **17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention**

- The 17th PBD Convention is being organized from 08-10 January 2023 at **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**, in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh.
- The 17th PBD Convention will be held in a physical format after a gap of four years. The last PBD Convention in 2021 was held virtually during the Covid pandemic.
- The **theme** of PBD Convention 2023 is "**Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal**".
- The PBD Convention 2023 will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 09 January 2023.
- The **Youth PBD** will be held on 08 January 2023, in partnership with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- On 10 January 2023, President Droupadi Murmu will confer Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards and preside over the Valedictory Session.

### **Who organizes the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas**

The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is organised by the **Ministry of External Affairs** in partnership with a **state government** and an **Industry body**, either Confederation of Indian Industry(CII) or Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry(FICCI) . It is normally organised on 9 January.

### **Significance of 9 January**

- On this day in 1915 the greatest pravasi of India , Mahatma Gandhi returned from South Africa in 1915 from South Africa to India .
- His ship **SS Arabia** docked in Bombay (now Mumbai) on 9 January 1915.To honour and celebrate the occasion the government of India decided to start Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in 2003.

### **9. Meenaskshi Lekhi leads Indian delegation at the 6th CICA Summit meeting at Astana ( Oct. 13, 2022 )**

Union Minister for External Affairs **Meenaskshi Lekhi** led the Indian delegation at the 6th Conference on Confidence Building Measures and Interaction in Asia (CICA) summit held on 12-13 October 2022 at the Kazakhstan capital, [Astana](#).

Replying to the Statement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif on Kashmir she said that Pakistan is misusing the CICA for propagating malicious propaganda against India. She said that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

### **Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.

The idea of convening CICA was first proposed by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan **Nursultan Nazarbayev**, on 5 October 1992, at the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

**27 countries including India**, China, and Pakistan are members of CICA.

### **Summit meetings of CICA**

The First summit meeting was held in **Almaty, Kazakhstan** on 4 June 2022. It was attended by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The second CICA summit was held in **Almaty, Kazakhstan** on June 17, 2006

The third CICA Summit was held in **Istanbul, Turkey** on 8 June 2010

The Fourth CICA Summit, was held in **Shanghai, China** on 21 May 2014

The Fifth CICA Summit was held in **Dushanbe, Tajikistan**, on 15 June 2019.

### **10. 5th South Asian GEO India-2022 to be held in Jaipur from 14 -16 October 2022 ( Oct. 13, 2022 )**

The three day (14 -16 October) 5th South Asian Geoscience Conference, GEO India 2022 will be held in the Rajasthan's capital **Jaipur**. The conference aims at sharing the latest research on improved production of natural gas and oil.

The Conference will be inaugurated by the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Urban Affairs **Hardeep Singh Puri** and will be attended by over 100 experts from across India and other countries including the US, Norway and the European countries.

The conference is being organized by the Association of Petroleum Geologists (APG).

The **theme** of the 5th South Asian Geoscience Conference, GEO India 2022 is : '**Fossil fuels, decarbonization and changing energy dynamics**'.