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1. In Slovenia, Natasa Pirc Musar elected the country's first female President (Nov. 14, 2022)

Natasa Pirc Musar elected country's first female President

In **Slovenia, Natasa Pirc Musar** has been elected the **country's first female President** after beating her conservative rival in the second round of elections on November 13.

Important facts

- Ms. Pirc Musar got about **54 percent** of the votes, while Logar got about 46 percent.
- He defeated **Anze Logar**, former foreign minister and a veteran of **conservative politics**.
- A prominent lawyer, Pirk Musser, represented former **US First Lady Melania Trump** in Slovenia on copyright and other matters.
- She campaigned on issues of human rights, rule of law and social welfare.
- Pirk Musser, 54, will be the first woman to serve as president after Yugoslavia broke up and Slovenia became independent in 1991.
- She will replace President **Borut Pahor**, a centrist politician who has already served two terms as president.

About Slovenia

- Prime Minister - **Robert Golob**
- Capital - **Ljubljana**
- Currency - **Euro**
- Official Language - **Slovene**

2. ASEAN agrees to admit Timor- Leste as its 11th member (Nov. 13, 2022)

ASEAN agrees to admit Timor-

The 10 nations group Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has agreed in principle to admit **Timor- Leste** as its 11th member. This was declared by the ASEAN after its summit meeting held in the Cambodian capital of **Phnom Penh** on 11 November 2022 Timor- Leste applied for membership of the ASEAN in 2011.

The other members of ASEAN are **Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam**.

Timor- Leste will be initially granted an **observer status** at a high level ASEAN meeting and it will take years before it becomes a full member of the ASEAN group.

The country would be the first new member of the regional grouping in more than two decades, since **Cambodia** was admitted in 1999.

Timor- Leste President **Jose Ramos-Horta** welcomed the decision, saying a membership would strengthen wider diplomatic relations with ASEAN's partners and will help attract more foreign direct investment in the country.

Timor- Leste

It was earlier called **East Timor** and was a Portuguese colony till 1975 .After the Portuguese left it was occupied by Indonesia. The people of Timor- Leste waged a freedom struggle to gain Independence from Indonesia.

In the 1999 United Nations supervised referendum the people of Timor-Leste voted for Independence from Indonesia.

It was officially recognised as an independent country by the United Nations in 2022, making it Asia's **youngest country**.

Capital of Timor- Leste: **Dilli**

Currency: **Dollar**

President: **Jose Ramos-Horta**

3. India announces additional contribution of '\$ 5 million' to ASEAN-India science and technology fund (Nov. 12, 2022)

India announces additional contribution of '\$ 5 million

The Vice President [Jagdeep Dhankhar](#) on 12 November 2022 announced an additional contribution of **USD 5 million** to the **ASEAN-India Science and Technology Fund (AISTDF)** to enhance cooperation in sectors of public health, renewable energy and smart agriculture.

The announcement came during the three-day visit of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar to Cambodia for ASEAN-India and East Asia summits.

ASEAN India S&T Development Fund (AISTDF)

ASEAN-India Science & Technology Collaboration formally started in 1996 with the establishment of the ASEAN India S&T working group (AIWGST).

Initially, the collaborative S&T projects and activities between India and ASEAN were supported through ASEAN India Fund (AIF).

In 2008, a dedicated ASEAN India S&T Development Fund (AISTDF) with an equivalent amount of USD 1 million was established jointly by the **Ministry of External Affairs** and **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** to support Research and Development projects and associated project development activities.

The AISTDF was enhanced to an equivalent amount of USD 5 million through an announcement by the Prime Minister of India on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Summit in Malaysia in November 2015.

4. India, Cambodia sign 4 MOUs in the areas of culture, wildlife & health (Nov. 12, 2022)

India, Cambodia sign 4 MOUs

On November 12 **India and Cambodia** signed **4 MoUs** in areas of health, technology, biodiversity conservation and preservation of ancient buildings.

Important facts

- Vice President **Jagdeep Dhankhar** holds a bilateral meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister **Hun Sen** on the sidelines of the ongoing **ASEAN Summit** in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on November 12.
- The two had extensive discussions on bilateral relations including human resources, mining and development projects.
- Cambodia also stressed on enhancing cooperation on mine clearance to help Cambodia reach the goal of "**a mine-free Cambodia by 2025**".

Four memorandum of understanding (MoU)

- MoU between the Institute of Technology of Cambodia and the Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur for digitalisation of Cambodian heritage sites.
- MoU regarding reintroduction of tigers in Cambodia between the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, India and Ministry of Environment, Cambodia for Cooperation in Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Wildlife Management.
- MoU between the Ministry of Health and the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on cooperation in the fields of health and medicine.
- MoU on Financing Agreement on the Preservation of Wat Raja Bo Pagoda Paintings in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

5. COP27 presidency launches Sharm-el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda (Nov. 12, 2022)

Sharm-el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda

At the **United Nations Climate Change Conference in Egypt**, the **COP27 Presidency** launched the **Sharm-el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda** to enhance resilience for the four billion people living in the most climate-sensitive communities **by 2030**.

Important facts

- The Sharm-el-Sheikh adaptation agenda represents a significant contribution to elevating global action on adaptation and resilience as a top priority.
- Each outcome presents a global solution that can be adopted locally to respond to local climate contexts, needs and risks
- This will help bring about the necessary changes in mechanisms to protect vulnerable communities from increasing climate hazards, such as extreme heat, drought, floods, or extreme weather.
- Developing countries also demanded that the fund should be easily accessible.
- It aims to reduce the devastating effects of climate change.
- The presidency sought to raise **\$140 billion to \$300 billion** to advance these goals.
- Developing countries, including India, are asking rich countries to agree to a new global climate finance target, also known as the New Collective Quantitative Target on Climate Finance.
- These actions will be carried out in five impact systems - **Food and Agriculture, Water and Nature, Coastal and Ocean, Human Settlements, and Infrastructure.**
- These actions will include enabling solutions to plan and finance these areas.

6. Year 2022 declared as ASEAN-India Friendship year (Nov. 11, 2022)

Year 2022 declared as ASEAN-India Friendship year

The year 2022 has been declared as the **ASEAN-India Friendship Year**, as ASEAN and India celebrate **30 years of partnership.**

Important facts

- A series of events have been planned to celebrate the occasion throughout the year.
- An Indian media delegation is visiting Singapore and Cambodia as part of the **ASEAN-India Media Exchange Program** from November 8 to 13.
- In the first leg of the visit, the delegation visited the Singapore-India Chambers of Commerce and Industries (SICCI).
- The delegation exchanged views on India-Singapore relations with a special focus on business-friendly policies and business expectations.

Evolution of India -ASEAN relationship

- India was initially made a sectoral partner by ASEAN in 1992. With the increasing depth in the relationships the status was changed to a Dialogue Partner in 1996.
- In 2022 the relationship was further upgraded to Summit level

And finally in 2012 it was elevated to Strategic partnership.

Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN)

- It was set up in 1967 as a group of South-East Asian nations.
- At present there are 10 members in the group.
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- They are **Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.**

The headquarters of ASEAN: **Jakarta, Indonesia.**

7. 16th Asian Conference on Diarrhoeal Disease and Nutrition (ASCODD) (Nov. 11, 2022)

16th Asian Conference

Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, **Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar** addressed the **16th Asian Conference on Diarrhoeal Disease and Nutrition (ASCODD)** at **Kolkata** on 11 November, 2022.

Important facts

- Delegates from India and other **Southeast Asian countries, African countries, US, European countries** attended the conference through video conferencing.
- **The theme of the Conference** was “Prevention and control of cholera, typhoid and other enteric diseases in low and middle-income countries through community participation : beyond the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic”.
- The conference was organised by **ICMR-National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases.**
- The conference focused on issues such as intestinal infections, nutrition, policy and practice, development of cholera vaccines, contemporary approaches to antimicrobial resistance of intestinal bacteria, etc., including a roadmap to end cholera by 2030.

8. S Jaishankar holds bilateral talks with Foreign Minister of Belarus, Vladimir Makei (Nov. 10, 2022)

S Jaishankar holds bilateral talks with Foreign Minister of Belarus, Vladimir Makei

External Affairs Minister **Dr. S Jaishankar** held bilateral talks with his **Belarus counterpart Vladimir Makei** in New Delhi on 9 November, 2022.

Important facts

- The Foreign Minister of Belarus, Vladimir Makei arrives in New Delhi on November 9, 2022 for a two-day visit to India.
- Both leaders held talks on a range of issues including bilateral economic ties, Ukraine conflict and multilateral cooperation.

India - Belarus Relations

- India's relations with Belarus have been traditionally warm and cordial.
- India was one of the first countries to recognize Belarus as an independent country in 1991.
- After formal diplomatic relations were established, the Indian diplomatic mission was opened in Minsk in 1992 and Belarus opened its mission in New Delhi in 1998.
- Cooperation between the two countries is reflected in several multilateral fora such as the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
- Belarus helped consolidate India's candidature for a temporary seat at the UNSC in July 2020.
- India has supported Belarus in various international fora such as membership of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and other international and multilateral groups such as the IPU (Inter-Parliamentary Union).
- The two countries have established mechanisms for the exchange of views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues through the Foreign Office Consultations (FOC), the Intergovernmental Commission (IGC), and the Joint Commission on Military Technical Cooperation.
- The two countries signed several MoUs on various subjects including defence and technical cooperation, trade and economic cooperation, culture, education, media and sports, tourism, science and technology, agriculture, textiles, avoidance of double taxation, promotion of investment.
- In the economic sphere, the annual bilateral trade turnover in 2019 is USD 569.6 million.

About Belarus

- President - **Alexander Lukashenko**
- Prime Minister - **Roman Golovchenko**
- Capital - **Minsk**
- Currency - **Belarusian ruble**

9. UN chief calls for a climate solidarity pact between developed and emerging economies (Nov. 8, 2022)

climate solidarity pact

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for a **climate solidarity pact** in which developed and emerging economies unite around a common strategy and mobilise resources to address the climate crisis.

Important facts

- At the opening of the COP27 United Nations Climate Summit of the Parties in Egypt on 7 November, he said the proposed treaty would give all countries additional efforts to reduce carbon emissions.
- He said the international financial system must be reformed to support **low-income countries**.
- At the inaugural session of world leaders at COP27, he said all countries should make "**extra effort**" to cut emissions and end the construction of coal plants.
- He said the two largest economies — the **United States and China** — have a particular responsibility to join efforts to make this pact a reality.
- Chinese President **Xi Jinping** did not attend COP27, although China has sent a delegation of negotiators.
- Guterres also launched a plan for a **global early warning system** for extreme weather events, a project that would cost \$3.1 billion over the first five years.
- It will also deliver advance warnings about any extreme weather on the planet such as **storms and heat waves**.
- COP27 is the **27th annual meeting** of the United Nations on Climate. It is taking place in **Sharm El Sheikh** until 18 November.

10. At least 15,000 killed by Heat Wave in Europe this year : WHO (Nov. 8, 2022)

15,000 killed by Heat Wave in Europe

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** on 8 November said, at least **15,000 people** have died in **Europe** because of **heat waves** this year so far.

Important facts

- According to reports recorded by health officials during the 3 months of summer, there have been nearly 4,000 deaths in Spain, more than 1,000 in Portugal, more than 3,200 in the United Kingdom and about 4,500 in Germany.
- The three months of June-August were the **hottest in Europe**.
- For example, France's National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (**INSEE**) reported that more than 11 000 people died between 1 June and 22 August 2022, compared to the same period in 2019.

- Temperatures in Europe have warmed significantly over the period **1961-2021** at an average rate of about **0.5 °C per decade**.
- According to a report released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), it is the **fastest warming region**.
- More than 148,000 people have lost their lives due to extreme temperatures in the European region in the past **50 years**.

World Health Organisation (WHO)

- The World Health Organisation is a specialised agency of the United Nations which was founded on **7 April, 1948**.
- Headquarters of WHO : **Geneva, Switzerland**
- Members : **194 countries**
- Director General of WHO: **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia**.