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1. India and Finland agrees to enhance cooperation in Digital Partnership (Nov. 14, 2022)

India and Finland cooperation in Digital Partnership

India and Finland have agreed to enhance cooperation in areas such as Digital Partnership in Future ICT, Future Mobile Technologies and Digital Education. This was agreed by the visiting Finland's Minister of Education and Culture, **Petri Honkonen** and the Union Minister of Science and Technology **Dr Jitendra Singh** in a meeting in New Delhi on 14 November 2022.

Both the countries also agreed on having institutionalized joint working groups in areas of mutual interest and in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Dr Jitendra Singh also recalled that following the signing of the Joint declaration during the visit of Mika Lintilä, Minister of Economic Affairs, and Finland on 18th April 2022, both sides have initiated collaboration in Quantum Technologies.

The Indian side has already identified four premier institutes **IISER(Indian Institute of Science Education and Research) Pune**, IIT Madras, **TIFR**(Tata Institute of Fundamental Research) Mumbai and **C-DAC(Centre for Development of Advanced Computing)** Pune to work with Finnish institutions on joint development of Quantum Computer.

Republic of Finland

It is located in Northern Europe. It forms a **symbolic border between Eastern and Western Europe**.

It is heavily forested and has around 56,000 lakes. It is also called the **Land of Thousand Lakes.**

Capital: Helsinki

Currency: **Euro**

Prime Minister: Sanna Marin

2. Gaurav Dwivedi appointed as Prasar Bharati CEO (Nov. 14, 2022)

Gaurav Dwivedi appointed as Prasar Bharati CEO

Senior IAS officer **Gaurav Dwivedi** was appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer of public broadcaster Prasar Bharati** on November 14, 2022.

Important facts

- Dwivedi, a **1995 batch officer of Chhattisgarh cadre**, will have a tenure of five years from the date he assumes charge.
- Prior to this, Dwivedi was the **Chief Executive Officer of MyGovIndia**, the government's citizen platform.

Corporate Address: A102, A Block, Sector 58, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301

Shashi Shekhar Vempati was the CEO of Prasar Bharati from 2017 to 2022.

- Doordarshan Director General **Mayank Agarwal** was given the additional charge of **CEO Prasar Bharati** in June this year, after Vempati completed his five-year term.
- He has been awarded the **Prime Minister's Award** for his excellent work in administration

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3. Greg Barclay re-elected as ICC chairman (Nov. 14, 2022)

Greg Barclay re-elected as ICC chairman

Greg Barclay has been unanimously re-elected as chairman of the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** for a second **two-year term** on 13 November, 2022.

Important facts

- Barkley has been **re-elected** as independent president for a second two-year term. Barkley was elected unopposed after Zimbabwe's **Tawengwa Mukuhlani** withdrew.
- Barkley was appointed as the IIC President in **November 2020.** At the same time, BCCI secretary Jay Shah was elected as the head of the powerful Finance and Commercial Affairs Committee of the ICC.
- Greg Barclay-Hale was the President of **New Zealand Cricket (NZC)** and also served as the **Director of ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2015.**

About International Cricket Council (ICC)

- It is the global governing body for cricket.
- It was **founded in 1909** as the Imperial Cricket Conference by representatives from **England, Australia and South Africa.**
- In 1989, its name was changed to International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Representing 108 members, it regulates and administers the game of cricket and works with members to develop the game.
- It presides over the ICC Code of Conduct, playing conditions, decision review system and other ICC regulations.
- Headquarter **Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

4. 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. Pirak 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

5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Indonesia to attend the 17th G20 Summit in Bali (Nov. 13, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Indonesia

The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a three day (14-16 November) visit to Indonesia to attend the **17th G20 Summit** in **Bali**. He will leave India on 14th November 2022 .The 17th G-20 Summit will be held in Bali on 15 and 16 November 2022.

Giving the information the **Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra** said during the G-20 summit the leaders will deliberate extensively upon key issues of global concern under the Summit theme of **'Recover Together, Recover Stronger'.**

Three working sessions will be held as part of the G20 Summit Agenda. These are food and energy security, health, and digital transformation.

Indonesia to hand over the Presidency to India

According to Kwatra at the closing session of the Summit, the Indonesia President will symbolically hand over the G20 Presidency to Prime Minister Modi. India will formally assume the G20 Presidency from **1st December** this year. India will host the next G20 summit in **September** next year.

During the G20 Presidency, **India-Indonesia-Brazi**l would be the troika. This would be the first time in G20 that the troika would consist of three developing countries and emerging economies in a row.

The G20 Summit programme also includes a **Leaders' visit to a <u>mangrove forest</u> in Bali on the 16th of this month.**

The Foreign Secretary said that on the sidelines of the Summit, Prime Minister Modi will have several bilateral interactions with the G20 leaders.

G-20 is a group of 19 leading developed and developing countries and the European Union. It has emerged as an influential group to deliberate on pressing world issues. G20 members represent around 85 percent of the global GDP, over 75 percent of the global trade and about two thirds of the world's population.

6. Kerala Governor inaugurates the IBSA Blind Football Women's Asian/ Oceania Championship 2022 (Nov. 12, 2022)

Kerala Governor inaugurates the IBSA Blind Football Women's

Kerala Governor **Arif Muhammad Khan** on 12 November 2022 inaugurated the IBSA Blind Football Women's Asian/Oceania Championship 2022 at **Kochi**, Kerala.

The IBSA Blind Football Women's Asian/Oceania Championship 2022 is being held at Kochi from 9 -20 November 2022.

International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA)

The International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) was set up in 1981 in Paris, France.

It is the governing body for the Paralympic sports of goalball, judo and blind football.

Headquarters: **Bonn, Germany**

Sandro Di Girolamo of Italy is the current IBSA President.

7. Vice President Dhankhar calls for free and open Indo-Pacific region at the 17th East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh (Nov. 13, 2022)

Vice President Dhankhar calls for free and open Indo-Pacific

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Vice President <u>Jagdeep Dhankhar</u> speaking at the 17th East Asia Summit meeting being held in the Cambodian capital of **Phnom Penh** on 13 November 2022 highlighted India's concern on food and security and emphasized the role of the East Asia Summit (EAS) in promoting free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific with freedom of navigation and overflight.

The 17th EAS is being hosted by the current ASEAN (Association of SouthEast Asian Nations) chairman Cambodia.

Earlier speaking in the summit the American President **Joe Biden** and the Japanese Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida** also highlighted the aggressive behaviour of China in the South China Sea and called for peace in the Taiwan Strait and ensuring freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar also called upon the EAS members' full contribution to the **International Year of Millets in 2023.**

Vice President visit to Cambodia

The Vice President was on a three day (11-13 November) visit to Cambodia to attend the **19th India-ASEAN summit** meeting which has been designated as the commemorative summit, to mark the 30 years of Indian ASEAN relationship.

This year is also being celebrated as ASEAN-India Friendship Year.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is accompanying Vice-President Dhankhar on this visit.

Observer Research Foundation signs Mou with AVI

On the sideline of the summit meeting **Observer Research Foundation** (ORF) of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a leading Cambodian think tank **AVI**.

The two institutions engaged in the realm of public policy will endeavour to cooperate more closely to enhance their mutual understanding on a range of issues from geopolitics and international relations to sustainable development and cultural engagement.

East Asia Summit

- The East Asia summit group consists of 18 countries.
- The concept of an East Asia Grouping was first promoted in 1991 by the then Malaysian Prime Minister, **Mahathir bin Mohamad.**
- It was set up in **2005** as a forum to promote strategic dialogue and cooperation on political, security and economic issues of common regional concern in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Initially it consisted of ASEAN members (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam) and China, Japan ,South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.
- The United States of America and Russia were included in 2011.

8. BCCI Secretary Jay Shah elected head of ICC Finance and Commercial Affairs (Nov. 12, 2022)

Jay Shah elected head of ICC Finance and Commercial Affairs

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary **Jay Shah** who is also the son of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah was elected as the head of the Finance and Commercial Affairs (F&CA) committee of the <u>International Cricket Council</u> (ICC). Jay Shah is also currently the **President of the Asian Cricket Council**.

He was elected at the International cricket Council's (ICC) Board meeting held in **Melbourne**, **Australia** on 12 November 2022.

He will succeed Ross McCollum as chair of the committee at its next meeting in March 2023.

The Finance and Commercial Affairs (F&CA) committee of the ICC is considered to be the second most powerful body of the ICC after the ICC Board . The ICC F&CA not only decides the ICC budget but also decide the revenue sharing model between the member countries, media and TV rights etc.

Greg Barclay re-elected as Chairman of ICC

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has unanimously re-elected Greg Barclay of New Zealand as the chairman of the governing body for a second two-year term. Barclay was unopposed after the withdrawal of Zimbabwe's Tavengwa Mukuhlan.

ICC is an international body which governs the men's and women's international cricket.

Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

9. Olympic Gold medallist Neeraj Chopra becomes 'Friendship Ambassador' of Switzerland Tourism (Nov. 12, 2022)

Neeraj Chopra becomes 'Friendship Ambassador' of Switzerland Tourism

Switzerland Tourism has appointed Olympic Gold medalist **Neeraj Chopra** as the '**Friendship Ambassador'** On 11 November, 2022.

Important facts

- In his new role, Chopra will showcase and promote the adventurous, sporty and great outdoors of Switzerland to Indian travellers.
- As Switzerland Tourism's 'Friendship Ambassador', Chopra will share his experiences in the country to showcase it as the ideal destination for the outdoors and the best for hiking, biking, soft and extreme adventure and snow sports.
- Switzerland tourism sees great potential in attracting a variety of visitors and the post-COVID outdoor segment is an especially interesting place from India's point of view.

About Switzerland Tourism (ST)

- Switzerland Tourism (ST) is a federal public corporation.
- Its mission was initiated through a federal resolution dated 16 December 1994.
- Its main objective is to promote Switzerland as a tourism and conference destination at home and abroad.

The board consists of 13 representatives from the tourism sector and business and • political sector.

- It works with many organisations and companies, for example, Swiss International Airlines, Swiss Embassies, Consulates and Business Councils.
- Tourism exports **rank fourth** in terms of revenue in Switzerland, behind the chemical, metallurgical industries and the luxury watchmaking industry.

About Switzerland

• President : Ignazio Cassis

• Capital : Bern

• Currency : **Swiss franc**

10. On a maiden visit to India Janet Yelllen participates in the 9th meeting of India-US Economic Financial Partnership at Delhi (Nov. 11, 2022)

9th meeting of India-US Economic

The United States of **America Treasury Secretary** (American Finance Minister) **Janet Yellen** ,who is on her first trip to India met the Indian Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and attended the **9th India-US Economic Financial Partnership** meeting in **New Delhi** on 11 November 2022.

Speaking on this occasion, US Treasury Secretary Dr. Janet Yellen said, strong trade, investment and people-to-people ties make bilateral, economic and financial relationships, a critical element to India-USA partnership.

During the meeting, both sides discussed issues of mutual interest including climate finance, multilateral issues, and India-US cooperation at G20 under India's Presidency, taxation, supply chain resilience, global economy and macroeconomic outlook.

Earlier speaking at the Microsoft India Development Centre in Noida she said that United States President Joe Biden has said that "India is one of America's indispensable partners".

After concluding her day-long visit to India, secretary Yellen will travel to Bali, Indonesia to represent the United States at the **G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers' Meeting** on November 12 and accompany President Joe Biden at the **G20 Leaders' Summit** on November 15 and 16.