

❖ Pankaj Tripathi named as 'UPI Safety Ambassador'

- The National Payments Corporation of India has announced the appointment of actor Pankaj Tripathi as its 'UPI Safety Ambassador.'
- Aim: To strengthen safety awareness on digital payment platforms
- This move comes in the wake of ongoing discussions regarding the safety and security of digital payment platforms, particularly United Payments Interface.
- NPCI's initiatives such as UPI, RuPay, and IMPS, reach the farthest corners of India, including cities, and villages.

❖ Hermes 900 Starliner drones set to be inducted into Indian Army

- The induction of the Heron Mark-2 drones along with the planned induction of the Hermes-900 drones is set to boost the surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities of the Indian Army.
- Aim: To boost the reconnaissance and surveillance capability of the Indian Army also their teaming with combat helicopters, which will prove to be a game changer in the third dimension
- India is also expected to receive 31 General Atomics MQ-9B Sky Guardian drones for the Army and IAF.

❖ **India and Netherlands sign a Memorandum of Intent to cooperate on medical product regulation**

- India and Netherlands have signed a Memorandum of Intent (MoI) to cooperate on medical product regulation and enhance the quality of medical products and healthcare services for both countries at Hague, Netherlands.
- The MoI was signed during a meeting of Shri Bhagwant Khuba, Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers with Mr. Ernst Kuipers Minister of Health, Welfare and Sports of the Kingdom of Netherlands.
- An Indian delegation led by Shri Khuba is in Netherlands to participate in the second World Local Production Forum (WLPF) meeting being held in The Hague.
- The World Local Production Platform is a platform created at the initiative of WHO with the aim of increasing access to medicines and other health technologies.
- **About Netherlands:**
- **Capital:** Amsterdam
- **Currency:** The euro
- **Prime Minister:** Mark Rutte

❖ **Santosh Kumar Jha set to be next CMD of Konkan Railway**

- Santosh Kumar Jha is set to be the next Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), a PSU under the Ministry of Railways.
- Jha is an Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS) officer of the 1992 batch.

- He holds an M. Sc. (Geology) from Lucknow University and an MBA (Marketing) from Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai.
- He has rich experience over 28 years of experience in operations, infrastructure planning, and business development.
- He has hands-on experience as head of operations on major divisions of Indian Railways.

❖ **Former Nagaland Governor PB Acharya passes away**

- Former Governor of Nagaland and senior BJP leader Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya passed away in Mumbai.
- Acharya who hailed from Udupi in Karnataka, breathed his last at his Mumbai residence.
- The BJP veteran had also worked with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad.
- Acharya had served as governor of Nagaland, Tripura, Assam and also handled the responsibilities as the governor of Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

❖ **USFDA approves first chikungunya vaccine, from French company Valneva**

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved its Chikungunya single-dose vaccine in individuals aged 18 and above.
- The company plans to start selling the IXCHIQ vaccine in the U.S. early next year.

- The single-dose vaccine was developed by Valneva, a French biotech company. It had been on an accelerated approval track with the FDA.
- Although most cases of the mosquito-borne illness in the U.S. are acquired through travel, locally acquired infections have occurred.
- In 2014, there were 12 cases of locally acquired chikungunya in the U.S., according to CDC data.
- A single locally acquired case was also reported in 2015, but not since.
- The infection could become more common in the U.S. as environmental changes make territories in new regions more habitable for the tropical, disease carrying mosquitoes.

❖ **National Education Day - November 11**

- National Education Day is celebrated every year on November 11 across India to mark the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- He served as the first education minister of independent India (Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet).
- He was education minister from 1947 to 1958.
- Abul Kalam Ghulam Muhiyuddin Ahmed bin Khairuddin Al-Hussaini Azad was born on November 18, 1888.
- He was a freedom fighter, educationist, scholar and senior leader of the Indian National Congress.
- Maulana Azad was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1992.

➤ Bharat Ratna is India's highest civilian award.

❖ **India and Bangladesh navies undertake Corpat & Exercise Bongosagar**

➤ The 4th edition of Bilateral Exercise between Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy, BONGOSAGAR-23, and the 5th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) by the two navies was conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal.

➤ Ships and aircraft from both navies undertook joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), and subsequently conducted maritime exercises to enhance interoperability.

➤ Indian Navy Ships Kuthar, Kiltan and Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) Dornier participated in the exercise along with Bangladesh Navy Ships Abu Bakr, Abu Ubaidah and MPA.

➤ The ships undertook communication drills, surface gun-shoots, tactical manoeuvres and other exercises that culminated with a steam past.

➤ CORPAT-23 also included the maiden Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) drills conducted between the two navies wherein a Search and Rescue scenario at sea was exercised.

➤ Regular bilateral exercises and coordinated patrols have strengthened mutual understanding and cooperation between the two navies.

❖ **India's industrial production growth decelerates to 5.8% in September**

- India's industrial production growth decelerated to 5.8 per cent in September from 10.3 per cent in August.
- The output of manufacturing and mining sectors showed an improvement.
- The factory output growth measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had grown by 3.3 per cent in September 2022.
- During April-September 2023-24, the IIP growth works out to be 6 per cent, down from 7.1 per cent in the corresponding period a year ago.
- As per the IIP data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector's output grew 4.5 per cent in September 2023 against a two per cent growth a year ago.

❖ **India, US in agreement on strategic issues**

- The India-US strategic partnership is characterised by mutual trust and both sides are increasingly in agreement on key issues in New Delhi.
- Some key issues are countering China's aggression, promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific and addressing regional security challenges.
- Singh made the remarks at a bilateral meeting with his American counterpart, Lloyd Austin, that took place shortly after the conclusion of the fifth edition of the India-US "2+2" ministerial dialogue.

➤ The India-US defence relationship has evolved into a strategic partnership characterised by mutual trust, shared values and a growing recognition of common interests in maintaining regional and global security.

❖ **Connectivity to All 168 Villages along India – China Border in One Year**

➤ Union home minister Amit Shah attended the 62nd Raising Day function of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in Dehradun during which he emphasised on development of villages along the India-China border.

➤ The government is committed to this and have accordingly raised the budget for border areas to Rs 12,000 crore from Rs 4,000 crore in 2014.

➤ Shah said that 168 villages along the China border that did not have any connectivity yet would be connected by road and other forms of communication in the next one year.

➤ The country could not be safe without development of border areas.

➤ The ITBP is the primary force deployed along the 3,488 km China border.

➤ The Centre wanted the border villages to be treated as first villages not just geographically but also in terms of facilities.