

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **58 Airports in the country have been covered under 'Krishi Udan Scheme'**

- Krishi Udan Scheme was launched in August 2020 on international and national routes to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products to help improve their value realization.
- Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 was announced on 27 October 2021 mainly focusing on transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas, North Eastern States and tribal areas.
- The scheme primarily covers 25 airports focusing on North Eastern, Hilly and Tribal region besides 33 airports in other regions/areas.
- **Krishi Udan Scheme is a convergence scheme where eight Ministries/ Departments namely:**
 1. Ministry of Civil Aviation
 2. Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
 3. Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
 4. Department of Fisheries
 5. Ministry of Food Processing Industries
 6. Department of Commerce
 7. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
 8. Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region would leverage their existing schemes to strengthen the logistics for transportation of Agri-produce.

➤ In order to facilitate and incentivise movement of Agri-produce by air transportation, waiver of Landing charges, Parking charges, etc. are provided under the scheme for Indian freighters by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Ministry of Defence at selected airports under the Scheme.

➤ The State-wise list of 58 Airports covered under the Krishi Udan Scheme is at Annexure.

❖ **India postpones Quad summit meeting scheduled in January 2024**

➤ India has postponed the Quad summit originally planned to be held next month to later next year.

➤ Sources finalising the "revised dates" now are necessary since the dates that were under consideration were not convenient to all the Quad partners, that comprise the US, Japan and Australia.

➤ The latest developments come amid reports that US President Joe Biden is also not expected to travel to New Delhi next month to be the Republic Day chief guest after India had extended an invitation to him a few months ago.

➤ There has so far been no announcement from either India or the United States on the outcome of the invitation to President Biden as yet.

➤ The Quad summit in India is proposed to be held later in 2024.

❖ **Bhajanlal Sharma, first-time MLA, to be Rajasthan's Chief Minister**

➤ The Bhartiya Janata Party appointed Sanganer MLA Bhajanlal Sharma as the new Chief Minister of Rajasthan, putting an end to the lingering suspense over the leadership in the state.

➤ Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa are set to be the deputy CMs.

➤ Sharma has served as the State General Secretary for the saffron party four times.

➤ Following the 2023 Rajasthan Legislative Assembly election, he was elected as an MLA from the Sanganer Assembly constituency.

➤ **About Rajasthan:**

➤ **Chief Minister:** Bhajanlal Sharma

➤ **Governor:** Kalraj Mishra

➤ **Founded:** 30 March 1949

➤ **Capital:** Jaipur

❖ **18 more Uttarakhand products get GI tag**

➤ Uttarakhand, officially claims that it is the first state in the country to get the highest number of 18 GI tag certificates in a single day.

➤ Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama distributed GI tag certificates for 18 products.

➤ Newly certified products include Uttarakhand Chaulai, Jhangora, Mandua, Red Rice, Almora Lakhori Chilli, Bering Tea, Burans Sharbat Ramnagar Nainital Litchi, Ramgarh Peach, Malta, Phari Tor, Gahat, Kala Bhatt, Bicchu Booti fabric, Nainital candle, Kumaoni colored Pichhoda, Chamoli Ramman mask and Likhai wood carving.

➤ With these 18 new products and existing 9 products till now Uttarakhand got a total of 27 GI tags.

➤ Meghalaya's 4 products also got GI tag these 4 products are Lakadong Turmeric, Garo dakmanda (traditional dress), Larani Pottery and Garo Chubitchi (alcoholic beverage).

➤ Meghalaya's agriculture minister Ampareen Lyngdoh said that Lakadong turmeric is found in the Lakadong area of the Jaintia Hills, has high curcumin content and the GI tag will help farmers in marketing and give access to customers to the authentic products.

➤ Her work also received recognition from international organizations and officials.

➤ The registration of a geographical indication shall be for a **period of ten years**, but may be renewed from time to time in accordance with the provisions of this section.

❖ **Myanmar is world's biggest opium producer**

➤ The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released its Southeast Asia Opium Survey 2023.

➤ The report states that Myanmar is the world's biggest opium producer.

➤ Earlier Afghanistan held the infamous title but since the ascent of Taliban to power in 2021, cultivation of opium poppies has seen a decrease of 95 per cent.

➤ Opium is dried latex obtained from the seed capsules of the opium poppy *Papaver somniferum*.

➤ **About Myanmar:**

➤ **Capital:** Naypyidaw

➤ **Currency:** Myanmar Kyat

➤ **President:** Myint Swe

➤ **Prime Minister:** Min Aung Hlaing

❖ **United Nations mission in Mali officially ends after 10 years**

➤ The United Nations mission in Mali has officially ended a 10-year deployment in the country.

➤ The mission, known as the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), lowered the UN flag in its headquarters in the capital Bamako.

➤ In June, Mali's military government, which seized power in 2020, demanded the departure of the decade-old mission.

➤ A "liquidation phase" will take place after January 1, involving activities such as handing over any remaining equipment to the authorities.

❖ **Chinese Doctor and AIDS Activist Gao Yaojie passes away at 95**

- A renowned Chinese doctor and activist Gao Yaojie passed at the age of 95 years in New York.
- Dr Gao became well-known and beloved across China in the late 1990s for her relentless activism in exposing a man-made AIDS crisis and for her work to remove the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.
- She discovered that AIDS was spreading through ramshackle blood transfusion centers set up with official government backing.
- Dr. Gao traveled across the country treating patients, often at her own expense.
- She reportedly visited more than 100 "Aids villages" and met more than 1,000 families offering them food, clothes, and medicine.

❖ **Government of India approves 1st Urban Flood Mitigation Project worth Rs 561.29 crore**

- The Central Government has approved the first urban flood mitigation project of Rs 561.29 crore for "Integrated Urban Flood Management" activities for the Chennai Basin project.
- This is the first of its kind of Urban flood mitigation efforts to develop a broader framework for urban flood management.
- The mitigation project will help make Chennai flood-resilient disasters by implementing comprehensive flood management strategies.
- The project aims to re-establish the surplus canals for erstwhile minor irrigation tanks in Chennai, Restore water bodies and install software for remote operation of surplus regulators during floods.

❖ **Javed Akhtar to be honoured at Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival**

- Veteran lyricist-screenwriter Javed Akhtar will be felicitated with the Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival.
- The festival's ninth edition will honor Akhtar for his contributions to the Indian film industry.

➤ The award ceremony will be held on January 3, 2024, at the Rukmini Auditorium in the MGM University campus of Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

➤ Akhtar, the co-writer of classics such as 'Zanjeer', 'Deewaar', 'Sholay', 'Don', 'Kaala Patthar' and 'Mr India', will be honoured for his contribution to Indian film industry.

➤ The honour includes Padmapani memento, citation and monetary award of Rs 2 lakhs.

❖ **International Day of Neutrality 2023 - December 12**

➤ The International Day of Neutrality, observed annually on December 12, holds paramount significance in promoting global peace, sovereignty, and the resolution of conflicts through diplomatic means.

➤ This day sheds light on the importance of countries adopting a neutral stance in international affairs to maintain impartiality and contribute to global security.

➤ The genesis of the International Day of Neutrality can be traced back to Turkmenistan, a Central Asian country recognized as a permanent neutral state by the UN since December 1995.

➤ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) approved Turkmenistan's proposal on February 2, 2017.

❖ **The Art of Living signs an MOU with the Govt. of Maharashtra for a powerful resolution to the devastating water crises**

➤ The Art of Living Social Projects takes immense pride in unveiling a strategic partnership to usher in transformative measures ensuring water positivity for the state of Maharashtra.

➤ An MOU was signed in Mumbai on the 26th of November between The Art of Living Social Projects and the Department of Soil and Water Conservation, Government of Maharashtra.

➤ The Art of Living has already taken up the initiative to make India water positive and made immense progress in rejuvenating 70+ rivers, their tributaries and streams.

➤ 90,000 + groundwater recharge structures have been built across 8 states including Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh.

❖ **Ex-UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon gets Power of One Award 2023**

➤ In the United States, former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon was honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award at The Power of One Award 2023 ceremony, organised by the Diwali Foundation USA.

➤ The awards are granted to selfless individuals for their help to form a peaceful and secure world for all.

➤ They are hailed as the 'Oscars of diplomacy'.

➤ Other awardees include former permanent representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the UN, Ambassador Mirsada Colakovic; former permanent representative of South Korea to the UN Ambassador, Kim Sook; and 72nd UN General Assembly president and EU Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue, Miroslav Lajcak.

❖ **Industrial production grows to 16-month high of 11.7 per cent in October**

➤ India's industrial production growth increased to a 16-month high of 11.7 per cent in October, mainly due to good show by manufacturing, mining and electricity sectors.

➤ India's IIP growth rate rises to a 16-month high of 11.7 per cent in October 2023.

➤ The data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed that the manufacturing sector's output grew by 10.4 per cent in October 2023.

➤ Mining production rose 13.1 per cent during the month under review.

- Power output rose 20.4 per cent.
- The IIP grew by 6.9 per cent in April-October 2023 compared to 5.3 per cent growth a year ago.
- ❖ **PM Modi to inaugurate Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- GPAI is a multi-stakeholder initiative with 29 member countries (including India) aiming to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.
- India is a founding member of GPAI, having joined the multi-stakeholder initiative in June 2020.
- In this summit it is decided that India will lead the Chair for GPAI in 2024, last year this was chaired by Japan.
- The first three GPAI summits were held in Montreal, Paris and Tokyo respectively.
- The first summit is to evaluate the use of AI in sustainable agriculture, adding to the previous GPAI themes including healthcare, climate action and building a resilient society.
- **YUVAi Initiative:** The ministry of Electronics and IT has said that the program-YUVAi (Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI) will be featured at the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit.
- This joint venture focuses on empowering students from class 8 to 12 with essential AI skills, cultivating a deeper understanding of AI, and inspiring them to become responsible designers and users of AI.
- YUVAi initiative is a collaborative initiative of National e- Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronic Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India and Intel India.