

NEWS TODAY


30th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting concluded in San Francisco

- For the first time since 2011, **USA hosted annual APEC summit.**
 - ⊖ Theme: **Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All.**
- **About APEC**
 - ⊖ Formed in 1989 with 12 members. Now, it has 21 members. (refer image)
 - ⊖ Grouping of economies around Pacific Ocean aiming to **promote trade, investment, and economic development** in region.
 - ⊖ Accounts for nearly **62% of global GDP, half of global trade** and covers **38% of global population.**
 - ⊖ Operates on basis of **non-binding commitments** with decisions reached by consensus.
 - ⊖ **India is an observer since 2011.**
- **Why is India not a member of APEC?**
 - ⊖ **Reservations about India's "protectionist instincts",** and its **unsatisfactory records on economic reforms and WTO engagement.**
 - ⊖ Membership in APEC group froze in 1997.
 - ⊖ **India's lack of a Pacific coastline** has worked against its membership.
- **Significance of APEC for India**
 - ⊖ **Reducing trade barriers, promoting free flow of goods, services and capital** among APEC economies.
 - ⊖ Improve **physical infrastructure linkages, people mobility and institutional ties** across Asia-Pacific.
 - ⊖ **Boost India's exports,** attract investment and support initiatives like Make in India.
 - ⊖ Facilitate "technology transfer" in IT, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy etc.




National Press Day was organized with theme "Media in the Era of Artificial Intelligence"

- Celebrated on **November 16 every year,** National Press Day is **symbolic of a free and responsible press in India.**
 - ⊖ It commemorates the establishment of **Press Council of India,** which acts as a **regulatory body for news media.**
- **Opportunities from AI use in media**
 - ⊖ **Big data journalism** for identifying patterns and frame informed public opinion.
 - ⊖ **Focus on core journalism** due to automation of back-office tasks.
 - ⊖ Creation of **personalized content.**
- **Challenges faced by media due to use of AI**
 - ⊖ **Credibility issues** due to inaccuracies.
 - ⊖ **Amplification of misinformation** through automated algorithms.
 - ⊖ **Limiting diverse perspective** through creation of **echo chambers** (where one experiences a biased, tailored media experience reinforcing their existing biases).
 - ⊖ Micro targeting of information to **influence democratic process.**
 - ⊖ **Violation of Intellectual Property Rights** like copyright.
 - ⊖ **Threats to media integrity** due to data biases in generative AI models.
- **Way forward**
 - ⊖ Ensuring that AI models **do not adopt biases** from their training data.
 - ⊖ **Collective action** to uphold journalistic integrity and ensure responsible AI use.
 - ⊖ **Ethical human oversight** on AI generated content.
 - ⊖ Increased focus on **fact checking and source verification.**



Press Council of India



Genesis: First set up in 1966 under Indian Press Council Act, 1965.
⊖ Re-established in 1979 under Press Council Act, 1978.

About: Statutory quasi-judicial autonomous authority.

Objective: Preserve freedom of press by maintaining and improving standards of newspapers and news agencies in India.

Composition: Chairman and 28 members.

Functions: ⊖ Build up a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists.
⊖ Review any developments likely to restrict flow of news.

RBI increased the risk weights with respect to consumer credit exposure of commercial banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)

- **The risk weights on banks'** unsecured personal loans, consumer durable loans, credit cards and NBFCs' unsecured personal and consumer durables loans have increased.
- The increased risk weight is applicable **to outstanding as well as fresh loans.**
- RBI has exempted **microfinance loans by NBFCs** from the risk-weight increase.
 - ⊖ **Risk weight refers** to the capital banks keep aside as provisioning to cover any loan defaults.
- The need for the measure is **rapid growth in unsecured loans.**
- **Impact of the measure**
 - ⊖ **Increases in the cost of borrowing** for consumers.
 - ⊖ RBI is indirectly telling banks to **slow unsecured loans and credit cards.**
 - ⊖ This will raise the **capital requirements of banks and NBFCs**, which will increase their cost of capital.
 - ⊖ In line with **basel norms.**
- **About basel norms**
 - ⊖ These are the **international banking regulations** issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.
 - ⊖ The Basel Committee has produced **three norms for Banking to tackle various risks faced by banks.**
 - ⊖ **RBI began implementing** Basel-I in 1992 and Basel-II in 2009. RBI also issued **guidelines on implementing Basel-III in a phased manner.**

Indian researchers detect X-ray polarization for the first time from a black hole outside the Milky Way

- Radiations are emitted from the vicinity of a **black hole located in the Large Magellanic Cloud-X-3 (LMC X3)** and located 200,000 light years away from the Earth.
 - ⊖ **The Magellanic Clouds** are two irregular dwarf satellite galaxies orbiting our Milky Way galaxy in the southern celestial hemisphere.
 - ⊖ The two galaxies are **large magellanic clouds and small magellanic clouds.**
- Researchers studied LMC X-3 using the **Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE), the Neutron Star Interior Composition Explorer (NICER) Mission, and Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array (NuSTAR).**
 - ⊖ **IXPE was the first mission** of NASA to study the polarization of X-rays from celestial objects.
 - ⊖ **ISRO's upcoming X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) mission** will be the second satellite with this capability.
- Researchers used X-ray polarimetry to reveal that **X-ray emissions from this black hole were polarised in nature**, "which means it changes the degree and angle".
- **About X-ray polarimetry:**
 - ⊖ **It is a unique observational technique** to identify where radiation comes from near black holes.
 - ⊖ It helps in studying the **origin of cosmic rays** in the universe, the **nature of black holes**, and the **interaction of matter** with the highest physically possible magnetic fields.

Nepal bans social media app TikTok citing disruption to social harmony

- Earlier, TikTok was **banned in India, Australia, EU, Belgium** etc.
- **Social media** is a **collective term for websites and applications** like Instagram, WhatsApp, TikTok, Twitter that focus on **communication, content-sharing and collaboration.**
 - ⊖ At the beginning of 2023, there were **398 million social media users in India.**
 - ⊖ As per MeitY, India witnessed **13.91 Lakh cyber-security incidents in 2022.**
- **Social media cybercrime are classified into**
 - ⊖ **Cybercrimes targeting social media users:** Privacy-violating crimes, account hijacking etc.
 - ⊖ **Cybercrimes facilitated by social media platforms:** Phishing, scams, fake profiles, cyber-harassment etc.
 - ⊖ **Cybercrimes advertised on social media platforms:** Advertising for stolen credit cards, video tutorials of unlawful acts, etc.
- **Reasons for Social Media's Vulnerability to Cybercrimes**
 - ⊖ **Cybercriminals use internal information** for social engineering attacks like data theft, etc.
 - ⊖ **Data Aggregation through quizzes** provides cybercriminals with information to achieve unauthorized access to respondents' accounts.
 - ⊖ **Unsecured Portable Devices like mobiles** have risk of information being stolen from lost devices.
 - ⊖ **Popularity and high usage.** On an average, Indian spends 194 minutes daily on social media platforms.
- **Measures to reduce Social Media Cyber-risks:** Know how to report, block, and filter content; Turn off geo-location; Use private Internet connection, etc.

India's Initiatives to reduce social media cybercrime

- **Online cybercrime reporting portal** to enable complainants to report complaints pertaining to Child Sexual Abuse Material.
- **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** to handle issues related to cybercrime in comprehensive and coordinated manner.
- **Cyber Crisis Management Plan by CERT-In** for countering cyberattacks.
- **Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre).**

India hosted the second Voice of Global South Summit(VOGSS)

- It focused on ways to sustain the momentum generated toward a **more inclusive, representative, and progressive world order.**
- **Indian PM unveils DAKSHIN (Global South Centre of Excellence) and called for 5 'Cs' for the Global South: Consultation, Cooperation, Communication, Creativity, and Capacity building.**
- India previously **hosted the first VOGSS**, where 125 Global South countries came together with the theme "**Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose.**"
- The term "**Global South**" refers to various countries often described as "developing," "less developed" or "underdeveloped."
 - ⊖ The concept of the Global South can be traced to the **Brandt report of 1980.**
- **Need for South-South Cooperation:**
 - ⊖ To **address the disproportionate impact** of global challenges such as climate change.
 - ⊖ To **improve representation** in global forums such as the UN Security Council.
 - ⊖ To achieve **food and energy security.**
 - ⊖ To fulfill **sustainable development goals.**
- **India's Initiatives for South-South Cooperation:**
 - ⊖ Inducting **African Union in G20** Grouping.
 - ⊖ **Institutional initiatives** such as the International Solar Alliance, Global Biofuel Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, etc.
 - ⊖ **MAHARISHI** for global food security.
 - ⊖ **G20 Digital Public Infrastructure Framework.**
 - ⊖ Proposal for **weather and climate monitoring satellite** for Global South.



Also in News



Police Custody

- The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) Bill 2023 provides that **15-day police custody** can be sought at any time during the initial investigation period (initial 60 days or 40 days as applicable).
 - ⊖ It suggests that **police custody can be extended by a Magistrate beyond the initial 15 days** under the BNSS, unlike the existing provision.
- **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs** has expressed concern over its misuse.
- The Parliamentary Committee received suggestions for establishing a general rule **that police custody should be taken within the first 15 days of remand.**



Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD-2023)

- 2023 edition of IPRD concluded in New Delhi.
- IPRD is an **annual apex-level regional strategic dialogue of Indian Navy.**
 - ⊖ Theme of IPRD-2023: "**Geopolitical Impacts upon Indo-Pacific Maritime Trade and Connectivity**".
 - ⊖ IPRD-2023 was **organised by National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi**, as the Indian Navy's knowledge partner.
 - ⊖ IPRD aims to **review various maritime trends**, regional **opportunities and challenges within Indo-Pacific region**, and foster exchange of **solution-oriented dialogue** amongst key stakeholders.



Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)

- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry participated in the **Investor Forum of the PGII.**
- **About PGII**
 - ⊖ It is the **infrastructure plan** was first announced during the G7 summit in the UK and officially launched in 2022.
 - ⊖ **G7 countries** are UK, USA, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the European Union (EU).
 - ⊖ It aims to mobilize up to **USD 600 billion by 2027.**
 - ⊖ It will narrow the **infrastructure gap in developing countries** and accelerate progress on SDGs globally.



Central Water Commission (CWC)

- According to CWC, in 2023, the water level in **reservoirs of India's southern states are low.**
 - ⊖ This was due to **below-normal rainfall during the monsoon**, especially in October (sixth driest in 123 years).
- **About CWC**
 - ⊖ CWC is a premier **Technical Organization** of India in the field of Water Resources.
 - ⊖ It is presently functioning as an **attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.**
 - ⊖ It is **charged with** the responsibilities of initiating, coordinating with the State Governments concerned, schemes for the control, conservation, and utilization of water resources.



Amazon Women of the World (WoW) programme

- Amazon India signed a MoU with All India Council for Technical Education to extend its Amazon WoW programme.
- Amazon WoW programme aims to **foster optimising resource utilisation, upskilling and promoting tech careers among women in STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).
 - ⊖ It is **open to any women student** who is currently pursuing a **four-year BTech/BE or two-year MCA, M.Tech/ME programme or five year dual degree.**
 - ⊖ It **offers workshops on coding, problem-solving, tech interviews, and data structures and algorithms etc.**



Wasp-107b

- **As per NASA's James Webb Telescope discovery,** Exoplanet (any planet beyond solar system) named Wasp-107b consist water vapour, sulfur dioxide, and silicate sand clouds.
- **About Wasp-107b** (discovered in 2017)
 - ⊖ **Situated 200 light-years away** in Virgo constellation.
 - ⊖ **Almost the size of Jupiter but similar in mass to Neptune.**
 - ⊖ About **30 times bigger than Earth,** though it's **one of the lowest density planets known.** Hence, called **Fluffy Planet.**
 - ⊖ Exhibits **water cycle akin to Earth's** but instead of water droplets, planet experiences sand rain.
- **Significance of discovery:** Helps in **tracing our own evolution,** shedding light on **how weather cycles impact planetary geography** and how **atmospheres influence weather patterns.**



Measles

- **The government has clarified** that the WHO report claiming 11 lakh children in India missed measles doses is not based on facts.
- Measles is a **highly contagious disease caused by a virus.**
- It can affect anyone but is **most common in children.**
- **It infects the respiratory tract** and then spreads throughout the body.
- **Symptoms** include a high fever, cough, runny nose, and a rash all over the body.
- It can prevented by the **MR (measles rubella) vaccine.**



Neo-Gothic and Gothic Architecture

- **St. Philomena's Cathedral in Mysuru** (Karnataka) is facing conservation challenges.
 - ⊖ Built in **Neo-Gothic style in 1840,** it gained **popularity under reign of Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, ruler of Mysore (1894-1940).**
- **Neo-Gothic Architecture**
 - ⊖ Originated in **England in 18th century.**
 - ⊖ Neo-Gothic structures are **larger in size** than Gothic structures.
- **Gothic Architecture**
 - ⊖ **Prevalent in Europe** between mid-12th century to 16th century.
 - ⊖ It's characterized by **pointed arches, ribbed vaults, large windows with stained glass, etc.**
 - ⊖ **Examples:** Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai; Victoria Public Hall and Park Town, Chennai; Victoria Memorial in Kolkata; Mysore Palace.

Personality in news



Sachchidananda Sinha (1871-1950)

- Bihar Chief Minister inaugurates Sachchidananda Sinha's statue on his birth anniversary on 10th November in Patna.
- **About Sachchidananda Sinha**
 - ⊖ Born in **Arrah, in erstwhile Bengal Presidency.**
 - ⊖ Played **crucial role in formation of Province of Bihar and Orissa.**
 - ⊖ Active member of **British Committee on Indian National Congress in London.**
 - ⊖ **Member of Imperial Legislative Council** from 1910-1930.
 - ⊖ As a **constitutional nationalist,** he believed that Indians should **adopt constitutional means to attain freedom.**
 - ⊖ Served as **interim President of Constituent Assembly** before **Rajendra Prasad was formally appointed as President.**
 - ⊖ **Key Writings:** Iqbal: The Poet and His Message, Kashmir the Playground of Asia etc.
- **Values:** Integrity of purpose, Leadership, Fortitude, etc.

