

In a bid to articulate the views of the developing countries regarding the effects of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, India will hold a major international summit on January 12 and 13. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said invitation letters had been sent to participants from “more than 120 countries”. “This summit, which will be called the ‘Voice of the Global South Summit’ under the theme — ‘Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose’ — essentially envisages bringing together countries of the global south and share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform across a whole range of issues”.

India is set to deploy an all-woman platoon of peacekeepers as part of a battalion to the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei (on the border between South Sudan and Sudan), which will be India’s largest single unit of women peacekeepers in a UN mission since the deployment of the first ever all woman contingent in Liberia in 2007, according to India’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. India is one of the largest troop contributing nations to the UN peacekeeping missions.

In a rare feat, a primary school teacher in Barmer district of Rajasthan has achieved a record in the family forestry campaign by planting four lakh trees and connecting 1.2 lakh people with his drive during the last 24 years. Fondly called “tree teacher,” Bheraram Bhakhar, 43, has sought to prevent desertification in western Rajasthan through his diligent work.

The Supreme Court on Friday transferred to itself petitions pending in various High Courts seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage. A three judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said there was broad consensus among the petitioners to shift the cases to the Supreme Court for an authoritative ruling on the issue, especially on the question whether same-sex marriage should be brought within the ambit of the Special Marriage Act of 1954.

As another round of refugee crisis brews on the Mizoram Bangladesh border, several members of the Kuki-Chin community were “pushed back” by the Border Security Force (BSF) on Friday, according to K. Vanlalvena, a Rajya Sabha member from Mizoram. He said not allowing the “ethnic Mizo” from Bangladesh to enter India would amount to “discrimination on ethnic grounds” as in the 1970s thousands of displaced Chakmas (mostly Buddhists) from Bangladesh were allowed to enter India and settle in Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

The Uttarakhand government on Friday announced its plan to evacuate all families living in the “danger zone” in Joshimath, also known as the gateway to the Badrinath temple, with immediate effect.

India’s real GDP is expected to grow 7% in 2022-23, slowing from 8.7% in FY22, as per the First Advance Estimates of National Income for the year released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Friday. With GDP estimated to have clocked a 9.7% uptick in

MINISTRY OF TEXTILE ISSUED GUIDELINES FOR TECHNICAL TEXTILES

1. The Ministry has issued two guidelines under the Programme of National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM). General Guidelines for Enabling of Academic Institutes in Technical Textiles- for Private & Public Institutes It will enable New Technical Textiles Degree Programme (undergraduate & Post Graduate).
2. General Guidelines for Grant for Internship Support in Technical Textiles (GIST). Grant of up to INR 20,000 per student per month shall be provided to the empanelled companies for providing internships to B. Tech students of relevant Departments/Specializations in Public/Private Institutes under the GIST guidelines.
3. Technical textiles (TT) are textiles materials and products manufactured primarily for technical performance and functional properties rather than aesthetic characteristics. They are used individually or as a component/part of another product to enhance its functional properties.
4. It is a knowledge-based research-oriented industry. With a view to position India as a global leader in Technical Textiles, NTTM was launched with a four-year implementation period from FY 2020-21 to 2023-24.
5. The Mission have four components Research, Innovation and Development. Promotion and Market Development. Export Promotion. Education, Training, Skill Development.

CENTRE PUTS ON HOLD TOURIST ACTIVITIES AT JAIN RELIGIOUS SITE IN JHARKHAND

1. The union government ordered a stay on all ecotourism activities at Sammed Shikhar, located on the Parasnath Hill in Giridih district of Jharkhand. It also directed the state government to strictly enforce an existing ban on sale of liquor, other intoxicants, and meat in the Parasnath Wildlife Sanctuary area.
2. Earlier in 2019, the Parasnath Sanctuary was notified as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ), which allows conditional development work and eco-tourism in the area. Sammed Shikhar is the biggest pilgrimage destinations for both sects of Jainism — the Digambaras and the Svetambaras.
3. According to Jainism, out of twenty-four Tirthankaras or Spiritual Guru of Jainism, twenty have found their Salvation or Nirvana or Moksha here. The reference of the temple and the hill is found on the holy textbook Jnatradharmakatha, of Jainism.
4. Santhals call the hills as ‘Marang Buru’ i.e., the hill of the deity and celebrate a hunting festival on the full moon day in Baisakh (mid-April). At 1365 m Parasnath is the highest mountain peak in the state of Jharkhand.
5. Santhals are the largest tribe in the Jharkhand and West Bengal state of India in terms of population and are also found in the states of Odisha, Bihar and Assam.

CABINET APPROVES RS12,882 CRORE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN THE NORTHEAST

1. The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Schemes of the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (MDoNER) for the balance period of the 15th Finance Commission (2022-23 to 2025-26). This includes North East Special Infrastructure development scheme (NESIDS) and Schemes of North Eastern Councils NESIDS is 100% centrally funding is provided to the State Governments of North Eastern Region for the projects of physical infrastructure and social Infrastructure.
2. **Other Schemes for Northeast-** Prime Minister’s Development initiative for the north eastern region (PM-DevINE). It is a is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% Central funding. PM-DevINE is an additionality to the quantum of resources available for the development of the NER. It will not be a substitute for existing Central and State Schemes. PM-DevINE Scheme will have an outlay of Rs.6,600 crore for the four-year period from 2022-23 to 2025-26. North East Gas Grid (NEGG) project. North East Industrial Development Scheme. North East Venture Fund (NEVF). MSMEs have been promoted under various schemes to boost entrepreneurship development.
3. **The objectives of the schemes of the MDoNER-**To supplement the efforts of the different Central Ministries & Departments. Provide gap-filling support to the eight North Eastern States as per their felt needs, by taking up projects.

the first six months, the advance estimate implies that growth will moderate to 4.5% in the second half. The NSO's estimate is based on limited data, with almost three months to go in the year, and essentially serves as an input for the Union Budget formulation exercise. Economists said some of the assumptions made about the second half were overtly rosy or grim — and could bode significant revisions ahead.

The Bihar government is set to start the first phase of a caste-based survey on Saturday. The Nitish Kumar government had for long urged the Centre to conduct a nationwide survey along these lines failing which it would go ahead and carry out the exercise in the State. The survey, which aims to cover an estimated population of 12.7 crore, will end on May 31.

Attorney General R. Venkataramani told the Supreme Court on Friday that the Union government will adhere to the timelines fixed by the court to process recommendations for judicial appointments. The government's statement seems to be a step down from its earlier view that it was not a "post office" to clear Collegium recommendations.

The Royal Navy's offshore patrol vessel, HMS Tamar, sailed to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Friday as part of its permanent deployment in the Indo-Pacific. India is the first port of call for the ship and underlines the United Kingdom and India's intent to collaborate in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and wider Indo-Pacific, the U.K. High Commission said in a statement.

The Supreme Court on Friday directed its committee led by a former apex court judge, Justice A.M. Sapre, to meet with the Road Transport Secretary within two weeks and work out a framework to mould State specific guidelines for the electronic monitoring and enforcement of road safety. The court acknowledged that speeding was the main cause of fatal accidents on Indian roads.

Taming inflation is the top priority for South Asian countries as risks to growth and investment outlook could rise if price pressures persist at high levels, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Friday. Speaking at an event organised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the RBI chief said policy challenges in the region have sharpened due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

INDIA'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR (NSA) HOSTS THE 36TH SESSION OF THE ANNUAL INDO-FRENCH STRATEGY DIALOGUE

1. At the annual India-France Strategic Dialogue, both sides emphasized Rule-based international order and 'strategic autonomy'. Rule-based-International order generally consists of a set of rules encouraging peaceful, cooperative behavior among states that is consistent with liberal values and principles; formal institutional bodies.
2. Strategic autonomy' is the ability of a state to take a relatively independent decision on matters of vital Interest. India and France established strategic partnership in 1998. The areas of defence & security cooperation, space cooperation and civil nuclear cooperation constitute the principal pillars of Strategic Partnership.
3. **Defence cooperation:** Procurement of French Rafale, agreement regarding the Provision of Reciprocal Logistics Support; Joint defense exercises, viz. Shakti (Army), Varuna (Navy) and Garuda (Airforce), etc.
4. **Space cooperation:** Jointly developed Megha-Tropiques satellite, TRISHNA (Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural resource Assessment), cooperation in Gaganyaan Mission, etc.
5. **Civil nuclear cooperation:** Civil nuclear cooperation was signed in 2008, cooperation in Jaitapur and Tarapur Nuclear Power Project, etc. France is supporting India's bid for accession to the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

DRAFT UGC (SETTING UP AND OPERATION OF CAMPUSES OF FOREIGN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (FHEIS) IN INDIA) REGULATIONS, 2023 RELEASED

1. **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has unveiled draft norms to allow FHEIs to set up campuses in India for internationalising India's higher education as envisaged in National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.
2. **Key features Approval:** UGC will grant in-principal approval to FHEIs to set up campuses in India. Eligibility: A foreign university with a rank among the top 500 global rankings or a foreign educational institution of repute in the home jurisdiction. Mode of teaching: Courses offered should be taught in a physical mode and online classes are not allowed. Autonomy in FHEIs: Determining fees, and the freedom to choose faculty from both India and abroad.
3. **Protection to students:** FHEIs are mandated to take UGC's prior approval to discontinue any course/programme or close the campus and to establish a students' grievances redressal mechanism.
4. **Securing India's national interest:** FEHIs shall not offer any such programme or course which jeopardises the national interest of India or the standards of higher education in India. Working of finances: Cross border movement of funds under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. Equivalence with degree awarded by foreign HEI in their country of origin.
5. **Significance-**Enable Indian students to obtain foreign qualifications at affordable cost. Reduction in foreign exchange outflow. Control in brain drain. Stimulation to R&D in India. Element of competition in higher education sector. Make India an attractive global study destination.

INDIGENOUS LIVESTOCK BREEDS

1. India now has 212 indigenous livestock breeds after ICAR-NBAGR registers 10 new ones. The 10 new breeds included three new cattle breeds (Kathani, Sanchori, Masilum), one buffalo breed (Purnathadi), three goat breeds (Sojat, Karauli, Gujari) and three pig breeds (Banda, Manipuri Black, Wak Chambil).
2. **Significance of Indigenous Breeds-**Better suited to climate resilience. More heat tolerant, better immunity and disease resistance.
3. 20th Livestock Census, while the population of exotic / crossbred cattle increased by 29.3 per cent compared to the 2012 Census, the population of indigenous cattle declined by six per cent.



*"Time has big heart,
no matter how much you wasted today,
it gives you 24 hours tomorrow."*

DR. KHAN
(KSG)