

India and the UAE are going ahead with food security cooperation under the I2U2, a new West Asian quadrilateral that includes Israel and the U.S. UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar discussed the cooperation under this initiative on Tuesday. "On food security cooperation under I2U2, a delegation led by CEO of ADQ visited India in October to take discussions forward with different stakeholders," the External Affairs Ministry said in a press note.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the government pays mere "lip service" to the independence of the Election Commissioners and this is evident from the way the tenures of Chief Election Commissioners (CECs) have "slid" down from over eight years in the 1950s to just about a few hundred days after 2004. "Their (CECs) tenure is highly truncated and known from the very beginning... In this way, this so-called independence that you pay lip service to, I am sorry to say, is destroyed by getting this kind of a term," Justice K.M. Joseph, heading a Constitution Bench, addressed the Union government.

The trade pact with Australia that was ratified by the Australian Parliament on Tuesday will "significantly open up opportunities" for many Indian business sectors, said Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday. Speaking at a press conference, Mr. Goyal welcomed the bipartisan support extended by Australia to the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) that was signed by India with the previous Australian administration under Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

3.1 % at which global GDP is set to grow this year — nearly half the rate of last year, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development said. The slide is due to continue next year, with global growth falling to 2.2% before rebounding to a relatively modest 2.7% in 2024. The energy shock has pushed inflation and is hitting economic growth around the world.

268 death tolls from the earthquake that shook Indonesia, as more bodies were found beneath collapsed buildings. The Cianjur regional disaster mitigation agency said that the number of dead increased from 162 reported the night before. The city of Cianjur was near the epicentre of the 5.6 magnitude earthquake that hit Monday afternoon.

11 number of minutes, under which a woman or a girl is killed by an intimate partner or a family member in the world, United Nations chief Antonio Guterres said. He added that violence against them is the most pervasive "human

DEVELOPMENT OF GREAT NICOBAR: STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE AND ECOLOGICAL CONCERNS

1. Recently, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change gave environmental clearance for Rs 72,000 crore development project on Great Nicobar Island.
2. **Significance of the project Economic:** Proposed International Container Transshipment Terminal can become hub for cargo ships. Strategic location: Very close to Malacca Strait, an important shipping route between Indian Ocean and South China Sea. **Tourism potential:** Pristine, white sandy sea beaches, attractive marine life, rich biodiversity, unexplored destinations ideal for medical and nature Tourism.
3. **Concerns raised against the project-** Involves massive infrastructure development in an ecologically fragile region. Threat to tribes on islands which include Shompen and Nicobarese tribes. Climate Change, **Environment**-related as low-lying islands at greater risk of submergence from sea-level rise, Threat of Tsunami etc.
4. **About Great Nicobar Island-** It is the southernmost of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Indira Point on southern tip of this Island is India's southernmost point. **Tribals groups:** Shompen and Nicobarese. **Geography:** Has tropical wet evergreen forests, mountain ranges reaching almost 650 m above sea level, and coastal plains.

FSSAI RELEASES DRAFT FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS (GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS) REGULATIONS, 2022

1. **New regulations are proposed under Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006 and will apply to:** Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) intended for food use. GMO means any living organism that possesses a novel combination of genetic material obtained using modern biotechnology. Food ingredients produced from GMOs that contain modified DNA. GMOs derived ingredients/additives/processing aids.
2. **Key provisions of draft regulations-** Prior approval to manufacture, pack, store, sell, market or import any food or food ingredient produced from GMOs. Front-of-the pack labelling for packaged food products that contain 1% or more of GM ingredients. If GMO is to be used as food or source material for production of food, seed or other plant-propagating material, approval is required from Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC). GEAC functions under Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
3. **About Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)-** It has been created under FSSA, 2006 and functions under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It lays down science-based standards for articles of food and regulates their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe food for human consumption.

COP27 CONCLUDES WITH LAUNCH OF SUMMARY DOCUMENT "SHARM EL-SHEIKH IMPLEMENTATION PLAN"

1. **27th Conference of Parties to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27)** took place in Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt). COP is supreme decision-making body of the Convention. All State Parties to Convention are represented at COP. COP meets every year, unless Parties decide otherwise.
2. **Key takeaways of the summit-** Setting up of a "loss and damage fund" for supporting poor vulnerable countries that are victims of extreme weather. Arrangements to operationalize Santiago Network for Loss and Damage, to catalyse technical assistance to developing countries vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change.
3. **Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda to enhance resilience for people living in the most climate-** vulnerable communities by 2030. Progress on adaptation, with governments agreeing to move forward on Global Goal on Adaptation and inform the first Global Stocktake (a mechanism to raise ambition under Paris Agreement).

rights violation” in the world and called on governments to implement national action plans that tackle this scourge.

A few senior officials of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), met MD and CEOs of public and certain private sector banks on November 16 to discuss the lagging growth in deposits in relation to credit growth, asset quality and adoption of new age technology solutions. As per the RBI’s latest weekly data for scheduled commercial banks, aggregate deposits have grown 8.2% in comparison to 11.4% on a year over year basis whereas credit offtake has jumped 17% in comparison to a 7.1% increase on a YoY basis.

Experts opine that it is not that deposit growth has fallen materially, but that credit growth has risen in the last few quarters. During the pandemic, owing to lower economic activity credit growth was on the lower trajectory. Now with economic activity returning to normalcy, the credit growth has picked up.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the possibility of new job opportunities in the private and government sectors in cities and villages had reduced the compulsion of youth to migrate and they were able to play their role in the development of their area. As part of the government’s ‘Rozgar Mela’ (employment fair), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday distributed over 71,000 appointment letters to new recruits via video conferencing.

Facing less than a lukewarm response to project Unnati, which aims to reduce dependence on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) by imparting skill training to its beneficiaries, the Union Rural Development Ministry wants to link performances of the States under the project with its labour budget for the next financial year.

4. New five-year work program to promote climate technology solutions in developing countries launched Others: Launch of G7-led plan Global Shield Financing Facility, Just Energy Transition Partnership, Forest and Climate Leaders’ Partnership etc.
5. **Concern that remain-** No concrete statement on ‘phase out’ of fossil fuels. Global climate finance (2019-20) is only 1/3rd of required. No agreement yet on how loss and damage fund should be setup and how it should be funded.

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS (BIS) RELEASES DRAFT STANDARDS NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (SNAP) 2022

1. SNAP proposes a set of actions that would enable BIS to fulfil its mandate as the National Standards Body and deliver standards according to the market needs in an efficient and timely manner. A standard certification implies a product or a service, by its design and protocols, meets certain qualities.
2. **Key features of the draft SNAP-** Specific focus in developing and updating standards w.r.t. India’s commitment on UN SDG 2030 and Paris Agreement. Proposal to bring technologies such as semiconductors, IT services, Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) such as metaverse, and cybersecurity techniques under BIS.
3. Other key subject areas to be taken up by BIS include Environment, Health and Safety, Building, Construction & Urban Development, Textiles, Transportation etc.
4. **Need for standardisation-** Facilitate free movement of goods and services across international borders. Promote trust on a digital and data driven economy by ensuring interoperability, reliability, security, and privacy. Assist in building market confidence, and integrating of global supply chains of domestic products.

WHO TO IDENTIFY PATHOGENS THAT COULD FUTURE OUTBREAKS AND PANDEMICS

1. WHO is launching a global scientific process to update the list of priority pathogens—agents that can cause outbreaks or pandemics. **It will help to guide global investment, R&D, especially in vaccines, tests and treatments.**
2. Scientists will consider evidence on more than 25 virus families and bacteria and will also consider "Disease X" -- an unknown pathogen that could cause a serious international epidemic.
3. List was first published in 2017 and includes COVID-19, Ebola and Marburg virus disease, Lassa fever, Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Nipah, Zika, Disease X etc.



“Be a good examinee, but do not spend too much time in that state. Shorter is Sweeter.”

DR. KHAN
(KSG)