

Face-to-face negotiations between UK, EU over trade deal restart in London



Face-to-face negotiations between the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU) over a trade deal have restarted in London in a last-ditch attempt to find agreement with just five weeks to go before their current relationship ends.

EU negotiator Michel Barnier and the UK's chief negotiator David Frost are working to secure a deal before the UK's transition period with the EU ends on December 31.

A failure to reach an agreement would see the UK and the EU trading on World Trade Organization terms, with tariffs immediately imposed on goods travelling to and from the continent.

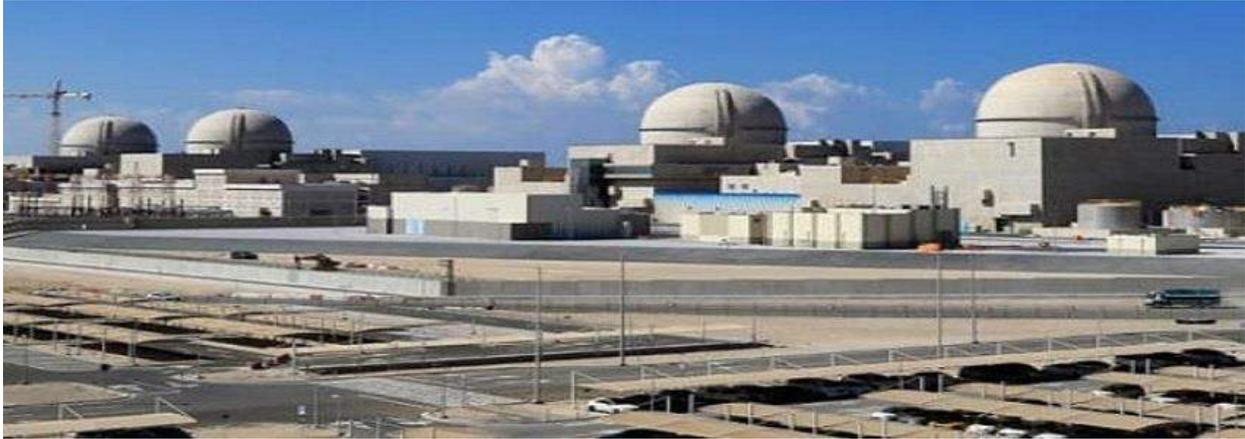
4th NSA-level meeting held between India, Sri Lanka and Maldives



The fourth National Security Advisor Level Meeting on Trilateral Maritime Security Cooperation was held between India, Sri Lanka and Maldives in Colombo.

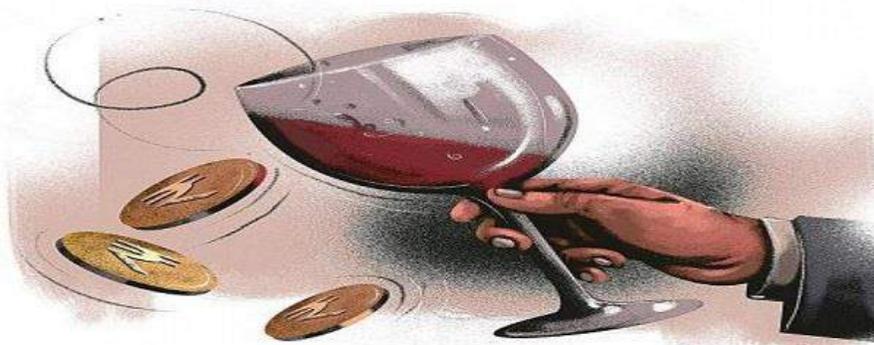
The participants took stock of the current maritime security environment in the region. They have discussed mutual cooperation in an array of areas including Maritime Domain Awareness, Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Relief, Joint Exercises and Maritime pollution.

UAE is set to become First Arab Gulf Country to Generate Electricity from Coal



The United Arab Emirates recently became the first and probably the last Arab country to generate electricity from coal. The coal plant, Hassyan is to be set up in Dubai at 3.4 billion USD. The capacity of the plant will be 600 MW. Later, the capacity of the plant is to be increased to 2,400 MW by 2023. In spite of the fact that it is the dirtiest power plant, UAE is opting for coal-based power plant because the Hassyan standards for pollution is to be based on guidelines for Natural Gas Power Plant. This way the new coal-based power plant will emit less carbon. It is to be lesser than that of the standards set by the World Bank and European Union.

China slaps up to 200% tariffs on Australian wine as relations nosedive



China is set to impose anti-dumping duties of more than 100 per cent on Australian wine from this weekend, adding to a series of sweeping trade reprisals this year and further escalating tensions with Canberra.

The anti-dumping deposits will take effect November 28 and range from 107.1 per cent to 212.1 per cent, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce said.

US, Taiwan to push an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative



An informal US-led alliance to provide an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative will provide greater transparency to countries seeking funding to develop their infrastructure, Taiwan's finance minister said.

Taiwan and the US are moving ahead with a plan to finance infrastructure and energy projects in Asia and Latin America, using capital raised from the private sector to ensure greater transparency, Minister Su Jain-rong said in an interview Wednesday in Taipei. He said he hopes to see the first projects start within the next year or two.

Malaysia secures Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine in a first for Southeast Asia



Malaysia has agreed to buy 12.8 million doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine, becoming the first country in Southeast Asia to announce a deal with the U.S. drugmaker after some expressed reservations over the need for ultra-cold storage.

While final trial data showed that Pfizer's vaccine is 95% effective, many Asian countries are not betting on it partly due to tropical heat, remote island communities and a lack of ultra-cold freezers.

IISc researchers develop wastewater treatment, recycling system



The Bengaluru based Indian Institute of Science researchers have developed an efficient decentralised wastewater treatment and recycling system for rural areas.

The model is demonstrated in Berambadi Primary school in a remote village in Karnataka.

The water that drains out of the wash basin and kitchen is treated and recycled after removing the oil and grease and used again for non potable purposes such as toilet flushing and gardening. Based on the success of this sustainable wastewater management project, several other schools in Karnataka have approached the institute to set up the system in their schools also.

EPFO extends time limit for pensioners upto Feb 28, 2020 for submission of JPP



Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, India

Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, EPFO has extended time limit for pensioners upto 28th February next year for submission of Jeevan Pramaan Patra (JPP). Around 35 lakh pensioners with EPFO will benefit from this.

Presently, a Pensioner can submit Jeevan Praman Patra anytime during the year upto 30th November, which is valid for a period of one year from the date of issue.

PM visits Serum Institute, inspects vaccine production process



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Serum Institute in Pune. Prime Minister Modi inspected the vaccine production process. Later, he had a discussion with the scientists and officials.

After visiting Zydus Cadila in Ahmedabad in the morning and later Bharat Bio Tech in Hyderabad he reached Pune to review the production process of Covishield vaccine in Serum. After concluding the hour-long program, Prime Minister Modi will leave for Delhi shortly.

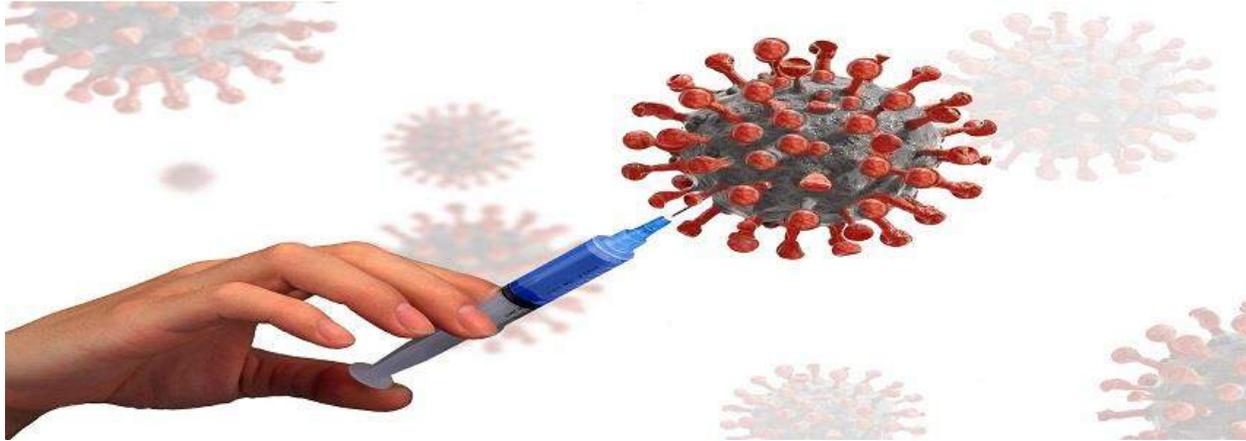
VP Venkaiah Naidu to chair 19th meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Govt on Nov 30



Vice President Venkaiah Naidu will chair the 19th meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government to be hosted by India in virtual format on 30th of this month. It will be the first time that a Summit-level Meeting will be held under India's Chairmanship, since it gained full membership of the organization in 2017.

India assumed the Chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of Government on 2nd November last year as per rotation from the previous Chair - Uzbekistan and will complete its year-long tenure on 30th of this month.

Govt launches 'Mission Covid Suraksha' to assist vaccine candidates



The Government of India recently launched Mission COVID Suraksha to accelerate development of vaccine in the country. It will ensure that the vaccines being developed are brought closer to the market. The mission was introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on November 12, 2020 as a part of 12 announcements made under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan 3.0. The mission will envisage COVID-19 vaccine development from pre-clinical to manufacturing and regulatory facilitation.

GoI launches India Climate Change Knowledge Portal



The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Prakash Javadekar launched the India Climate Change knowledge portal.

The portal will hold major information about the steps taken by the government at both National and international levels to address climate change issues. It will act as a single point information source providing information about different climate initiatives of the government.

DGCA set to remove restrictions on Pratt&Whitney powered A320 Neo aircraft



Indian aviation regulator DGCA is set to give EDTO approval to Airbus 320 and 321 Neos fitted with Pratt and Whitney engines, which are used by IndiGo and Go Air.

EDTO or Extended Diversion Time Operations approval is mandatory for aircraft to take routes for which the nearest suitable airport, to make an emergency landing, is more than 60 minutes away.

The PW engines have suffered multiple glitches leading to inflight shutdowns due to which DGCA had restricted EDTO operations of A320 and A321Neo aircraft, primarily operated by IndiGo and Go Air.

UNDP Accelerator Lab India launches GrassRoot Innovation Database (GRID) to foster inclusive development at community level



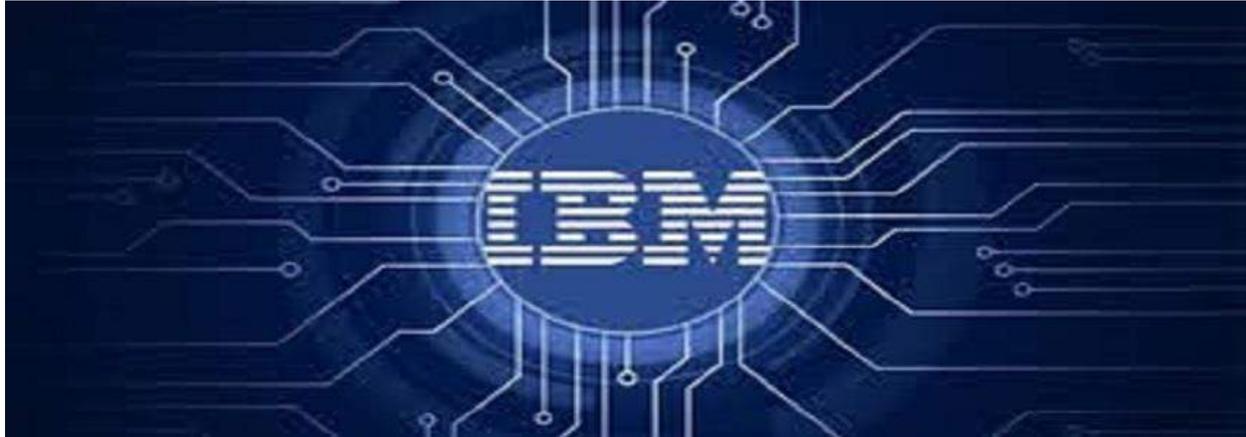
UNDP Accelerator Lab India launched the first-of-its-kind Grassroot Innovation Database (GRID) to foster inclusive development.

It contains 1,500 solutions, ranging from simple to complex in design, which can be implemented at the community level. These innovative solutions have been developed by grass root communities, individuals, start-ups, students and other innovators from various states across India.

The unique database caters to various sectors which include livelihood, natural resource management, agriculture, agro-biodiversity, pest management, water management, farm machinery, biodiversity

conservation, augmentation, inclusive growth, waste management, circular economy amongst others. GRID has been co-created for public use by GIAN , Honey Bee Network Institution and UNDP-Accelerator Lab-India.

IBM, MeitY collaborate to build future-ready skills, enhance employability



Tech giant IBM has collaborated with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to create a robust education and skilling ecosystem through the Common Services Centre Academy. CSC Academy, part of the Common Services Centre (CSC), and IBM, along with implementation partners CSR Box, Uva Jagriti Sansthan and Jeevitam will foster the capability and development of learners with diverse backgrounds and educational needs.

As a part of the collaboration, IBM will curate and provide content from its key skilling programs - SkillsBuild and STEM for Girls - to be used for the training services and in community development programmes that is currently being conducted across 6,000 CSC Academies.

PFC, REC to provide Rs 8,520 cr loan to SJVN's power project in Bihar



State-owned PFC and REC have signed an initial pact with SJVN to provide Rs 8,520 crore worth loan for a thermal power plant in Buxar, Bihar.

STPL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of SJVN and executing the project. The Buxar thermal power project is expected to be commissioned in 2023-24 and generate approximately 9,828 Million Units of energy to meet the future power requirement of Bihar and other states.

Total FDI inflows into India during second quarter of financial year 2020-21 is 28,102 million dollars



Total Foreign Direct Investments inflows into India during the second quarter of financial year 2020-21 is 28,102 million dollars, out of which FDI equity inflows is 23,441 million dollars.

This takes the FDI equity inflows during the financial year 2020-21 upto September this year to 30,004 million dollars which is 15 percent more than the corresponding period of 2019-20.

In rupee terms, the FDI Equity inflows of 2 lakh 24 thousand 613 crore rupees are 23 percent more than the last year.

NSE, BSE declare Anugrah Stock as defaulter, expel from memberships



Leading stock exchanges BSE and NSE have declared Anugrah Stock & Broking as a defaulter and have expelled the brokerage house from respective memberships.

The move comes days after a similar action was taken by the stock exchanges against Karvy Stock Broking.

Investors having any outstanding claims against the brokerage house have been asked to file their claims with the exchange within 90 days (by February 25, 2021), it added.

Mission Olympic Cell approves Bajrang Punia's one-month training camp in US



A one month training camp in USA has been sanctioned for wrestler Bajrang Punia. The decision was taken at the 50th Mission Olympic Cell meeting. The camp will take place from December 4 to January 3 at Cliff Keen Wrestling Club, Michigan, USA at an approximate cost of Rs 14 Lakhs. Bajrang has already qualified for the Tokyo Olympics after earning a quota at the 2019 World Championships.