

International

Tensions escalate in West Asia

Tensions have escalated in West Asia as Israel conducted precise strikes on military targets in Iran. The Israel Defense Forces said the strikes were in response to Iran's ballistic missile attack on the 1st of October.

Massive rally for minority rights and security in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, Sanatan Jagaran Mancha organised a massive rally in Chattogram on October 25, calling for minority rights and security.

National

India and Germany today sign multiple MoUs

India and Germany signed multiple MoUs and agreements ranging from green hydrogen to innovation and technology to boost bilateral relations. Germany has also decided to increase the annual visa quota for skilled Indian professionals from 20 thousand to 90 thousand.

Rohini Godbole no more

Padma Shri recipient and pioneering particle physicist Rohini Godbole passed away on October 25 in Pune.

Dr. Neena Malhotra appointed Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Sweden.

Dr. Neena Malhotra (IFS: 1992), presently an Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Sweden. She is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

Maiden IN – GN Maritime Partnership Exercise

Indian Navy's Destroyer INS Delhi, German Navy's Frigate Baden-Württemberg and Tanker Frankfurt Am Main undertook a Maritime

Partnership Exercise (MPX) in the Indian Ocean.

The maiden *IN – GN* Maritime Partnership Exercise in the Bay of Bengal is aimed at further strengthening the maritime connection between the two nations and interoperability between the navies.

The 31st edition of SIMBEX.

The 31st edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) is scheduled from 23 to 29 Oct 2024, in the Eastern Naval Command at Visakhapatnam. The exercise will be conducted in two phases - the Harbour Phase from 23 to 25 October at Visakhapatnam, and the Sea Phase from 28 to 29 October in the Bay of Bengal.

SIMBEX, which began as 'Exercise Lion King' in 1994, has since evolved into one of the most significant bilateral maritime collaborations between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

CDSCO flags select batches of four drugs as spurious.

Central Drug Standards Control Organisation, CDSCO has flagged select batches of four drugs as spurious. Out of nearly 3000 samples tested, 49 drugs were asked to be recalled as they were found less efficacious. Only nearly 1.5 per cent of the total drugs sampled were found to be less efficacious.

ISRO, DBT Agreement

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) have signed an agreement to design and conduct experiments, which will then be integrated into the forthcoming [Bharatiya Antariksh Station \(BAS\)](#), [India's proposed indigenous space station](#). The BAS is expected to take shape from 2028-2035.

34th Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian Civil Servants

The National Centre for Good Governance completed the 34th Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian Civil Servants in New Delhi on October 25. The two-week program was the second under the second phase for civil servants of the Maldives, following the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding to train 1,000 Maldivian civil servants.

Centre launches the Pandemic Fund Project on Animal Health Security

The Centre today launched the Pandemic Fund Project on Animal Health Security Strengthening in India for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, along with the 21st Livestock Census Operation.

Pravasi Parichay 2024

In a robust celebration of India's cultural diversity, thirteen talented Indian women artists are bringing their homeland's rich heritage to life at the Indian Embassy in Riyadh as a part of the weeklong Pravasi Parichay 2024, held in October 2024.

Business/Economy

The European Investment Bank loan to the Bengaluru suburban railway

The European Investment Bank has announced it will provide a loan of 2,800 crore rupees for the Bengaluru suburban railway. The bank has also launched a technical assistance hub for urban mobility solutions.

ADB loan to Assam

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), in October 2024, approved a \$434.25 million loan to increase renewable energy capacity and improve energy security in the state of Assam. The [Assam Solar Project](#) will construct a grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) facility in Karbi Anglong district with a capacity of 500 MW.

IIM Shillong, SIDBI MoU.

Indian Institute of Management Shillong - through its Foundation for Incubation and Enterprise (IIMSFIE), IIM Shillong - signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SIDBI to foster entrepreneurship in the Northeast.

Reliance Industries, Nvidia partnership

Reliance Industries and Nvidia announced a partnership to build large-scale AI infrastructure in India, in a move that could enhance India's artificial intelligence capabilities. This was announced during a meeting between Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani and Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang at the Nvidia AI Summit 2024 in Mumbai.

Sports

Manika Batra's distinction

Manika Batra created table tennis history as she became the first Indian to qualify for the quarterfinals at a WTT Champions event. Manika defeated Bernadette Szocs of Romania 3-1 in the round of 16 in Montpellier, France. Manika will next face China's Qian Tianyi.