

### **China launches COVID-19 vaccine that can be inhaled through mouth**



The Chinese city of Shanghai has started administering an inhalable COVID-19 vaccine in what appears to be a world first. The vaccine, a mist that is sucked in through the mouth, is being offered for free as a booster dose for previously vaccinated individuals. Needle-free vaccines may persuade people who don't like getting a shot to get vaccinated, as well as help expand vaccination in poor countries because they are easier to administer. As of mid-October, 90% of Chinese were fully vaccinated and 57% had received a booster shot.

Chinese regulators approved the vaccine for use as a booster in September. It was developed by Chinese biopharmaceutical company Cansino Biologics Inc. as an aerosol version of the same company's one-shot adenovirus vaccine, which uses a relatively harmless cold virus.

### **Germany allows controversial Chinese stake in Hamburg port**



Germany's government allowed a Chinese firm to buy a reduced stake in a Hamburg port terminal, after Chancellor Olaf Scholz resisted calls to ban the controversial sale outright over security concerns. Chinese shipping giant Cosco has the go-ahead to buy a stake "below 25%" in the Tollerort container terminal.

## Amid claims of 'dirty bomb', Putin surveys nuclear drills



Russian President Vladimir Putin surveyed drills carried out by his nuclear-capable forces as Moscow pressed unfounded claims to India and China that Ukraine was developing a “dirty bomb.” The drills were organized to simulate a massive nuclear strike by Russia in case of any danger to the country. The drills follow multiple warnings by Vladimir Putin about Russia's readiness to use all means available against any danger on Russian territory.

## COP27: 27th annual UN meeting on climate to take place in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt



The 27th annual UN meeting on climate, COP27 (Conference of Parties) will take place in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt from 6th to 18th November. This will be the fifth time a Climate Conference is being hosted in Africa. Governments of more than 200 countries have been invited to participate. COP27 will focus on three main areas, reducing emissions, helping countries to prepare and deal with climate change and securing technical support and funding for developing countries for climate activities.

### **UN Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee meet to be held in Mumbai & Delhi on October 28 and 29**



A special meeting of the United Nations Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee will be hosted in Mumbai and Delhi on 28th and 29th of October. The theme will be 'Countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes'. The meeting will begin with a 'Soft Opening Session and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism' in Mumbai on the 28th of October through a ceremony at Hotel Taj Mahal Palace.

### **Two more Indian Beaches enter the coveted list of Blue Beaches, says Environment Ministry**



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said that two more Indian Beaches have entered the coveted list of Blue Beaches. After this, India now has 12 Blue Flag beaches, an eco-label given to the cleanest beaches in the world. The internationally renowned and coveted International eco-label "Blue Flag" has been accorded to two new beaches — Minicoy Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach — both in Lakshadweep. The Thundi Beach is one of the most pristine and picturesque beaches in the Lakshadweep archipelago where white sand is lined by turquoise blue water of the lagoon. The Kadmat Beach is popular with cruise tourists who visit the island for water sports. It is a paradise for nature lovers with its pearl white sand, blue lagoon waters, its moderate climate and friendly locals.



### **GEAC gives its nod for commercial cultivation of GM mustard yet again**



The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has recommended the environmental release of the genetically modified (GM) mustard variety DMH (Dhara Mustard Hybrid)-11, paving the way for the commercialisation of the country's first GM food crop. The GEAC said the recommendation was valid for four years from the date the approval letter was issued. Further studies and coordinated trials will have to be conducted jointly with the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) within two years.

The GEAC said the commercial use of DMH-11 hybrids will be subject to the Seed Act, 1966, and related rules and regulations. Mustard is cultivated by around 6 million farmers in around 6.5-7 million hectares of land across the states of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.

### **ISRO to boost NavIC, widen user base of location system**



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is working on a series of improvements to NavIC, or India's equivalent of the Global Positioning System (GPS), so that more people are motivated to install and use it. Plans are also afoot to give it a global reach, S Somanath, ISRO Chairman, said on the sidelines of the India Space Conference. The Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) uses seven satellites to provide real-time positioning and timing services in India and an area extending up to 1,500 km from the country's borders.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to replace at least five of these with the improved L-Band, which would enable it to offer better global positioning services to the public as several satellites of the constellation have outlived their lives.

### **7th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting held on Agro-Forestry under co-chairmanship of Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar**



Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar virtually co-chaired the 7th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry. Addressing the meeting Mr. Tomar reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of keeping ASEAN at the centre of India's Act East Policy. He emphasised on mutually close regional cooperation with ASEAN to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth for agricultural development in the region.

He said that India will promote nutritious cereal products for the health and nutrition of the people. Nutritious cereals help in the creation of nutrients, with low resource requirements and more efficient agri-food systems.

### **India, China trade crosses \$100 bn during Jan-Sept; deficit up at \$75 bn**



India and China bilateral trade continued to boom, crossing USD 100 billion for the second year in the first nine months of 2022 while India's trade deficit climbed to over USD 75 billion, according to trade data released by Chinese customs. The total bilateral trade, amidst the military standoff in eastern Ladakh, went up to USD 103.63 billion, registering a 14.6 per cent increase compared to last year during the same period. China's exports to India climbed to USD 89.66 billion, registering an increase of 31 per cent. However, India's exports in the past nine months stood at USD 13.97 billion, registering a decline of 36.4 per cent. As a result, the total trade deficit went up to over USD 75.69 billion.



### Musical instruments' exports rise to Rs 172 crore in Apr-Sept



India's musical instruments exports have increased to 172 crore rupees during April-September this fiscal against the 49 crore rupees in the same period of 2013-14. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said, exports of musical instruments have risen to more than 3.5 times.

### Central banks must keep raising rates till 'neutral' level: IMF MD



International Monetary Fund chief Kristalina Georgieva said that central banks should keep raising interest rates further to fight inflation until they hit a 'neutral' level, though in most cases they have not reached this point. Speaking to Reuters in Berlin a day before the European Central Bank is widely expected to raise rates by 75 basis points, the fund's managing director said it would take until 2024 for the positive effect of central banks raising rates globally to be felt.

Recent rate hikes by the ECB have come against the backdrop of a deteriorating economic outlook and inflation that hit 9.9% in the euro zone in September, driven by soaring food and energy prices after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

## **South Korea's economic growth hits 1-year low in Q3**



South Korea's economic growth fell to its slowest in a year in the third quarter. The Bank of Korea estimated that the country's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by a seasonally adjusted 0.3 percent in real terms from the previous quarter. It is the slowest growth since the third quarter of 2021. Economists have pointed to growing challenges for Korea's economy as sustained high inflation, rapidly rising interest rates worldwide and continuing global supply-chain disruptions sap demand both at home and abroad.

## **FIFA U-17 World: Spain seals final berth**



Spain struck in the final minute of regulation time to seal its path to the FIFA U-17 World Cup final. Lucia Corrales turned super-sub as her goal downed a resolute Germany in the semi-final at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. Spain, which reached its third final at this level, can now defend its crown at the DY Patil Stadium on Sunday.

### India bags two gold medals in Asia Cup bridge



The Indian senior's team of Hemant Jalan, Kamal Mukherjee, Badal Das, Pranab Bardhan, Subrata Saha, Sukamal Das, won the gold in the 4th Asia Cup bridge championship in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Indian team had a commanding lead of 119-50 after two sessions against Japan, and the latter conceded defeat in the third session.

In the open team event, India lost the semifinals to the eventual champion China 102-106. It came back strongly to beat Japan 132-85 for the bronze. Rajeshwar Twari, Keyzad Ankaleswaria, Sumit Mukherjee, D Majumdar, Jaggy Shivdasani, Sandeep Thakral made the Indian open team.