

Kyiv says Russian strikes leave over 1,100 Ukraine towns without power



Ukraine said that more than 1,100 towns and villages across the country had been left without power after 10 days of Russia strikes that have targeted energy facilities across the country. Since Oct 10, 30% of Ukraine's power stations have been destroyed, causing massive blackouts across the country. In the past 10 days Russia carried out around 190 mass strikes with missiles, kamikaze drones and artillery in 16 Ukrainian regions and in the city of Kyiv. As a result of the strikes, more than 70 people were killed and 240 injured over that period.

Australia not to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital



Australia said it would no longer recognise West Jerusalem as Israel's capital, reversing a contentious decision by the previous conservative government. Foreign Minister Penny Wong said the city's status should be decided through peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians, and not through unilateral decisions.

In 2018, Australia's then-prime minister Scott Morrison followed US president Donald Trump's lead in unilaterally recognising west Jerusalem as the Israeli capital. Jerusalem is claimed by both Israelis and Palestinians, and most foreign governments avoid formally declaring it the capital of any state.

Israel occupied Arab east Jerusalem in the 1967 Six Day War and later annexed it, declaring the entire city its "eternal and indivisible capital".

'SARANG – The Festival of India in Republic of Korea' enthralled art, music lovers in South Korea



Indian Embassy in Seoul, South Korea organized its much sought-after annual flagship cultural program 'SARANG – The Festival of India in Republic of Korea' which enthralled the South Korean art and music lovers with a fusion of Indian and Korean dance and music in a grand spectacle running over two weeks. The Cultural performances were also held at Gimhae (Oct 1), Busan (Oct 2), Seoul (Oct 4-5), Cheongju (Oct 6), Yeongdong (Oct 7), Nami Island (Oct 8-9) and Incheon (Oct 13-14).

The celebrations this year were organised as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to mark 75 years of India's independence. SARANG in Korean means 'love' and for Indians it refers to 'diversity representing different colours of India'.

India, France re-elected as President and Co-President of International Solar Alliance



India and France have been re-elected as President and Co-President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). ISA Director General Ajay Mathur said, Union Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh has been re-elected as the President of International Solar Alliance. France Minister of State for Development Chrysoula Zacharopoulou has been re-elected as Co-President.

The four - day International Solar Alliance began this Monday under India's presidentship. Participants from 110 countries will share their experiences towards a low-carbon economy through promotion of solar energy.

To bolster investments in solar power projects, the ISA, in its General Assembly meeting approved the 'Solar Facility', a payment guarantee mechanism expected to stimulate investments into solar projects through two financial components — a Solar Payment Guarantee Fund and Solar Insurance Fund.

Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar announces creating fund of Rs 500 crore as accelerator program for Startups working in agriculture sector



Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar has announced creating a fund of 500 crore rupees as a accelerator program for Startups working in agriculture sector for commercialisation and democratisation of their successful innovations and techniques. Mr Tomar said that a network will be set up under the Agriculture Ministry to help and support the Agri Startups and for overall planning, a steering committee will be set under the Chairmanship of Agriculture Minister.

Mr Tomar said, currently there are two thousand Agri Start-ups in the country and the government aims to take this number to 10 thousand.

Bharati Das takes charge as new Controller General of Accounts



Bharati Das, a 1988-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service Officer, took charge as the new Controller General of Accounts in New Delhi. Ms Das is the 27th Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance. Prior to this, Ms Das has served as Principal Chief Controller of Accounts (Pr. CCA) Central Board of Direct Taxes, Pr. CCA Ministry of External Affairs, Pr. CCA Ministry of Home Affairs and CCA, Ministry of Health and Family welfare. She has also served as Director, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways.

Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal is India's resolve to celebrate its maritime heritage says PM Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi said National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal is the government's resolve to celebrate India's rich maritime history. PM was speaking after reviewing the site work progress of the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal in Gujarat through video conferencing. The complex is being developed at a cost of around three thousand 500 crore rupees. It is being developed as a one-of-its-kind project to not only display India's rich and diverse maritime heritage and also help Lothal to emerge as a world-class international tourist destination.

AK-203 assault rifles production likely to begin by end of year



The Indo-Russian joint venture at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh will start manufacturing AK-203 assault rifles by 2022 end. Over 6.1 lakh AK-203 assault rifles will be manufactured in India with technology transfer from Russia. In addition, in the future, the joint venture may increase production and modernise production facilities to manufacture advanced rifles based on the Kalashnikov assault rifle platform.

Govt and private sector to jointly invest about Rs 95 thousand crore in Aviation Sector in next four years



The Union government and the private sector will jointly invest about 95 thousand crore rupees in the Aviation Sector in the Next Four Years. Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia stated this while chairing the Conference of the Ministers of Civil Aviation in New Delhi. Mr Scindia informed that the Airports Authority of India is working on expansion of about 40 airports and setting up of 3 to 4 new greenfield airports. He said, private sector is also working on 60 brownfield and 3 greenfield airports. The Minister said, the number of airports is likely to cross 200 in next 4 to 5 years.

US repatriates 307 antiquities valued USD 4 million stolen, trafficked from India



A globe spanning, 15-year investigation has led to the repatriation of 307 antiquities by the US that were stolen and trafficked from India and valued at nearly four million dollars, the majority seized from disgraced art dealer Subhash Kapoor. Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg announced the return of 307 antiquities valued at nearly USD 4 million to the people of India.

Govt to seek waiver in norm for IDBI Bank sale



The Centre is in talks with the market's regulator seeking to relax a key public shareholding norm for the potential buyer of IDBI Bank in a bid to attract a larger pool of suitors. Earlier this month, India invited bids for a 60.72% stake in IDBI Bank – which is 45.48% owned by the government and 49.24% by state-owned Life Insurance Corp (LIC).

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) mandates a minimum 25% of public shareholding for all listed entities, excluding state-owned companies, within three years of listing. The government has asked SEBI if it can classify the Centre and LIC's remaining stake of about 34% after the sale as public float, which will help the new buyer meet the minimum public shareholding norm without diluting its ownership.

OVL said to bid to regain 20% stake in Russia's Sakhalin-1



ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), the overseas arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), is making a proposal to retake 20% stake in Russia's Sakhalin-1 oil and gas project in the far east. Sakhalin-1 is OVL's cash cow and without the project, the company will be a loss-making entity. OVL has stakes in 33 oil and gas assets in 15 countries, most of these being exploration assets. Sakhalin-1 is one of the oldest investments of OVL, where it has recovered all the money sunk in and was enjoying dividends.

Sakhalin-1 is a large oil and gas field in far-east offshore Russia, spread over 1,140 square kilometers, which includes three offshore fields namely Chayvo, Odoptu and ArkutunDagi. OVL acquired a 20 per cent stake in the project in July 2001.

Govt approves increase in Minimum Support Price for all Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2023-24



The Union Government has increased the MSP of Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2023-24, to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. The absolute highest increase in MSP has been approved for lentil (Masur) at Rs.500/- per quintal followed by rapeseed and mustard at Rs.400/- per quintal. For safflower, an increase of Rs.209/- per quintal has been approved. For wheat, gram and barley an increase of Rs.110/- per quintal, Rs.100 per quintal respectively has been approved.

ISSF World Championship: Indian junior women's team clinches 10m air pistol gold medal



India's junior women's 10m air pistol team comprising Esha Singh, Shikha Narwal and Varsha Singh won gold medal at the ISSF Rifle/Pistol World Championship 2022 in Cairo, Egypt. The Indian women beat China's Zhao Nan, Wang Siyu and Shen Yiyao by a 16-6 scoreline in the gold medal match to clinch top podium finish. This was India's sixth gold medal at the ISSF Rifle/Pistol World Championship 2022.

BCCI appoints Roger Binny as new Chief



Former Indian cricketer Roger Binny has been appointed as the new president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The 67-year-old was elected unopposed during BCCI's annual general meeting (AGM). Binny becomes the first-ever former World Cup-winning to become BCCI's president. Jay Shah has been re-inducted as the secretary of the board. Besides confirming the new appointments, the BCCI also approved to conduct the inaugural edition of the Women's IPL in 2023.

India, Saudi Arabia emerge as final bidders to host 2027 edition of AFC Asian Cup



India and Saudi Arabia have emerged as two final bidders to host the 2027 edition of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup. Qatar, who are the current Asian champions were interested to host the 2027 Asian Cup but had to drop out after it was announced as hosts for the 2023 edition. India have qualified for the AFC Asian Cup 2023, Qatar, following their table-topping performance in the third round of qualifiers.