

## Israelis begin voting for 5th time in less than 4 years to elect new parliament



Israelis began voting for the fifth time in less than four years to elect a new parliament. Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is bidding for a comeback. The last four elections in Israel ended in an indecisive mandate as alliances fell short of the majority mark in the Knesset. Yair Lapid, Israel's Foreign Minister and architect of the outgoing coalition government, will become the country's caretaker prime minister after midnight on Friday. New elections were held on November 1.

## 21st meeting of SCO Council of Heads of govt held in virtual format



The 21st Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO Council of Heads of Government was held in the virtual format. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar represented India in the meeting. In his address, Dr. Jaishankar underlined India's strong cultural and historical connect with the SCO region. A Joint Communique of SCO Heads of Government and other Decisions were adopted at the conclusion of the Meeting. The SCO CHG meeting was attended by SCO Member States, Observer States, Secretary General of the SCO, Executive Director of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, Turkmenistan and other invited guests.

### **North Korea asks US, South Korea to stop joint military exercises**



North Korea has asked the US and South Korea to stop their joint military exercises. Both USA & South Korea began one of their largest combined military air drills, which will end on Friday. North Korea's foreign ministry in a statement said that if the US does not want any serious developments not suited to its security interests, it should stop the war exercises immediately. North Korea has also launched a series of missiles in recent weeks in response to the exercises. The current military drills, called Vigilant Storm, involve hundreds of airplanes conducting mock attacks 24 hours a day.

### **50 UN member countries issue joint statement condemning Chinese government's persecution of Uyghurs in Xinjiang**



50 United Nations member countries have issued a joint statement that condemned the Chinese government's persecution of Uyghurs in Xinjiang. The 50 signatories included the United States, Britain, Japan, France, Germany, Australia, Israel, Turkey, Guatemala and Somalia. The statement expressed grave concern about the human rights situation in the People's Republic of China, especially the ongoing human rights violations of Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim minorities in Xinjiang.

It was the largest group of states to publicly denounce Beijing's human rights violations in Xinjiang. In August, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) released a report on human rights violations in China's western region of Xinjiang.

### **Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina confers 'Friends of Liberation War' honour on Edward M Kennedy**



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina conferred the prestigious 'Friends of Liberation War' honour on former US Senator Edward M Kennedy posthumously in Dhaka for his contribution to the liberation of Bangladesh. The honour was handed over to his son Edward M Ted Kennedy Junior. She said that Kennedy Senior took a bold stand against the genocide committed by Pakistan on innocent Bengali people despite the US government role during the 1971 liberation war.

### **UN, Turkey and Ukraine agree to implement Black Sea grain deal despite Russia's withdrawal from pact**



The United Nations, Turkey and Ukraine have agreed to implement a Black Sea grain deal despite Russia's withdrawal from the pact. Russia halted its role in the Black Sea deal for an indefinite term. Moscow said that it could not guarantee the safety of civilian ships traveling under the pact after an attack on its Black Sea fleet. Black Sea grain Initiative was launched by Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Nations on 22 July 2022 to enable the resumption of exports from Ukraine of grain, other foodstuffs, and fertilizer through a safe maritime humanitarian corridor from Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea to the rest of the world.

### Amrit Lal Meena takes over charge of Secretary in Coal Ministry



Amrit Lal Meena, a 1989-Bihar Cadre IAS officer, took over the charge of Secretary in Coal Ministry. Prior to assuming the present post, Mr. Meena was holding the charge of Special Secretary (Logistics), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. Meanwhile, Giridhar Aramane, a 1988-batch IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, has assumed the office of Defence Secretary.

### Hyderabad based CDFD initiates approach to decode Paediatric Rare Genetic Disorders



The Hyderabad based Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), has initiated an interdisciplinary approach to decode the genetic mutations that causes Paediatric Rare Genetic Disorders (PRaGeD). The PRaGeD mission is a PAN-India initiative funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). The CDFD was collaborating with paediatrics departments of medical colleges, DBT-UMMID centres, and 15 centres across the country to analyse samples from children with rare genetic disorders and their parents.

## Second edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2022 begins in New Delhi



The second edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2022 begins in New Delhi. During the Four-day conference, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address and interact with the Naval Commanders on matters pertaining to national security. The Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and the Chiefs of the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force would also interact with the Naval Commanders.

## Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya to inaugurate India Chem 2022 on 2nd November



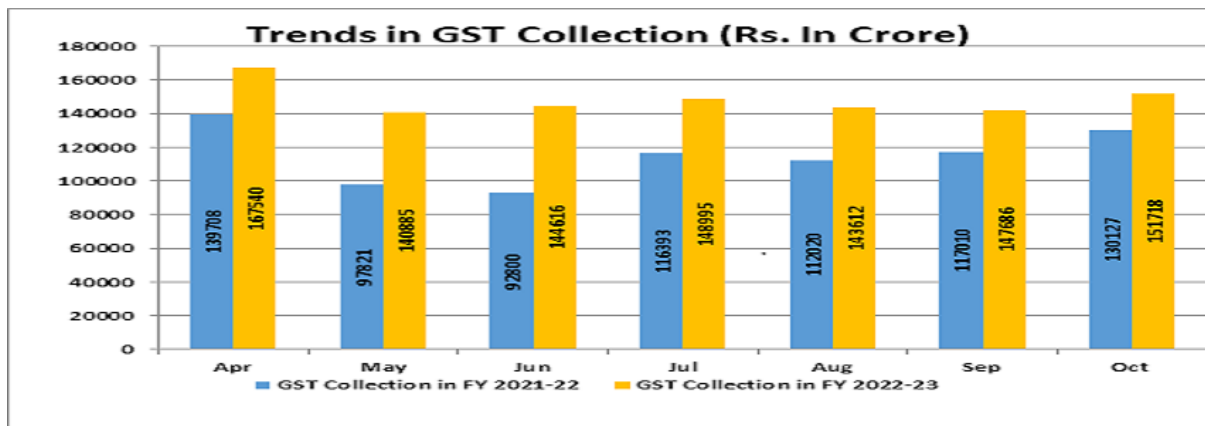
Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate India Chem 2022 on the 2nd of November at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. The theme of the event is “Vision 2030: Chemicals and Petrochemicals Build India”. India Chem 2022 will showcase the Government’s policy for sustainable growth in the sector and provide a platform for national and international players to interact, exchange knowledge and forge alliances.

## Zojila Day commemorated at Zojila War Memorial near Drass to celebrate action by Indian troops in 1948 Operation Bison



Zojila Day was commemorated at Zojila War Memorial near Drass on November 1 to celebrate the gallant action by Indian troops in 'Operation Bison' in 1948 which was launched on the icy heights of Zojila pass, the gateway to Ladakh. The commemoration of the day was marked with a solemn wreath-laying by Commander Dras Warriors of the Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps, to pay homage to the gallant bravehearts, who have etched their names in history by liberating the Zojila pass from Pakistani Intruders.

## GST collection in October crosses Rs. 1.50 lakh Crore; 2nd highest monthly collection this year



The Gross GST revenue collected in the month of October 2022 was at 1,51,718 crore rupees, which is the second-highest monthly collection till date. It is for the second time the gross GST collection has crossed Rs. 1.50 lakh crore mark this year, next only to the collection in April 2022. Out of the total collections, CGST collection was at 26,039 crore rupees, SGST at 33,396 crore rupees whereas the IGST at ₹ 81,778 crore rupees, including 37,297 crore collected on import of goods and Cess is ₹ 10,505 crore, including ₹ 825 crore collected on import of goods.

## Govt set target to increase number of subscribers of EPFO to 10 crores: Bhupender Yadav



Union Minister for Labour and Employment Bhupender Yadav said that the government has set a target to increase the number of subscribers of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) from the existing 6.5 crores to 10 crores. The Minister said, that although various other pension schemes like Atal Pension Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana are being implemented the EPFO is the focal point of all such schemes. He said, it is the primary responsibility of the EPFO officers to ensure pensions to all those who are poor and working in factories.

## Elon Musk announces \$8 monthly charge for verified Twitter account



Elon Musk announced that Twitter will charge \$8 a month for its verified profiles. This means everyone who has a verified profile will have to cough up \$8 to avail that feature on Twitter. Musk also said the price will be adjusted as per the country proportionate to its purchasing power parity. Musk also said there will be a paywall bypass for publishers willing to work with.

## India's gold demand dips as inflation hits rural buyers



India's gold consumption in the months of October to December could fall by around a quarter from a year ago as inflation depresses rural demand, the World Gold Council (WGC) said. The lower purchases in the world's second-biggest gold consumer could weigh on prices, which are trading near their lowest level in more than two-years. Falling demand for gold imports could also help to narrow India's trade deficit and support the rupee.

Higher inflation is likely to curb rural demand, which was starting to recover from disruption caused by last year's COVID-19-led lockdowns

## Maintenance issues ground more than 75 planes: CAPA



Aviation consultancy firm CAPA said that more than 75 planes of Indian carriers are currently grounded due to maintenance issues. These planes, which account for about 10-12% of the Indian fleet, are grounded due to maintenance or engine-related issues. As per the report, more than 75 aircraft are currently grounded, creating serious challenges against the backdrop of an already hostile cost environment and contributing to increased losses.



### Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan sign MoU with FIFA and AIFF for 'Football4Schools' initiative



Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, on behalf of the Ministry of Education, signed an MoU in Mumbai with FIFA and All India Football Federation for the 'Football4Schools' initiative in India. FIFA President, Mr. Gianni Infantino, and President, All India Football Federation, Shri Kalyan Chaubey signed the MoU on behalf of respective organizations. Shri Pradhan said that football is an immensely popular sport and the Football4Schools program uses it as a positive tool to inspire children and ensure their holistic development. He further said that 'Football4Schools' aims to empower 25 million young boys and girls in India through sports-integrated learning.