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India, ASEAN Digital Public Infrastructure

- India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries have stressed collaboration to leverage Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in several sectors, including education, healthcare, agriculture, and climate action.
- They recognized **financial technology and innovation** as vital drivers for the bilateral economic partnership. India-ASEAN also recognized that cooperation in cybersecurity is a crucial part of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.



- They also supported collaboration in the development of necessary knowledge, skills, infrastructure, risk management frameworks, and policies to effectively and responsibly leverage Artificial Intelligence technologies.
- India and ASEAN also recognized that AI is changing job landscapes rapidly, requiring upskilling and reskilling of the workforce.
- India-ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR, the Prime Minister said India and ASEAN countries are peace-loving nations, and they respect each other's national integrity and sovereignty.
- Highlighting the importance of ties between India and ASEAN countries, Prime
 Minister Modi said that trade with the ASEAN region has almost doubled to
 over 130 billion dollars in the past ten years.



- India has direct flight connectivity with seven ASEAN countries, and soon direct flights will start with Brunei. He also pointed out that India has opened new consulates in **Timor-Leste**, and **Singapore** was the first country in the ASEAN region with which India established fintech connectivity.
- Prime Minister announced a 10-point plan to further boost relations between
 India and ASEAN countries. The next year will be celebrated as the ASEAN-India
 Year of Tourism, for which India will make available five million US dollars
 towards joint activities.

Terrorist Organizations

- Centre has declared Hizb-Ut-Tahrir and all its manifestations and front organizations as terrorist organizations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.
- In a Gazette notification, the Union Home **Ministry said Hizb-Ut-Tahrir** is allegedly involved in the radicalization and motivation of gullible youth to join terrorist organizations, such as ISIS, and raising funds for terror activities.
- It said, the aim of the organization is to establish an Islamic state and Caliphate globally, including in India, by overthrowing democratically elected governments through jihad and terrorist activities.



- The Ministry said, Hizb-Ut-Tahrir is also promoting terrorism by using various social media platforms, secure apps, and by conducting Dawah meetings to encourage gullible youth to indulge in acts of terrorism.
- National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a key accused in the Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HuT) case. The agency said they have arrested Faizul Rahman, identified as a 'Nakib', who is the state chief of the HuT.
- It said that HuT activist Hameed Hussain, along with others, had conspired in Chennal to spread secessionist ideologies by promoting the anti-national views of HuT.

DigiLocker Partners With UMANG App

- National e-Governance Division announced the integration of the UMANG app with DigiLocker to provide citizens seamless access to a wide range of government services.
- **Electronics and IT Ministry** said that this collaboration will allow users to manage multiple services through a single platform.
- It said, the **UMANG app is accessible to all Android users and** its services can be accessed through the DigiLocker app.
- The Ministry said DigiLocker is a flagship initiative under the Digital India
 program aimed at providing secure cloud-based storage of essential documents.
 UMANG app provides a single platform for all Indian Citizens to access pan India
 e-Gov services ranging from Central to Local Government bodies.



Nobel Prize In Literature

- 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded to South Korean author Han Kang.

 She was honoured for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life.
- The Nobel committee at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences made this announcement.



• Ms. Han Kang is widely known for her **novel The Vegetarian**, which was written in three parts.

- According to the Nobel Committee, she is the first South Korean writer to win the award. Ms. Kang began her career in 1993 with the publication of a number of poems in the magazine Literature and Society.
- **Her prose debut came in 1995** with the short story collection Love of Yeosu, followed soon afterwards by several other prose works, both novels and short stories.

Human Rights Council

- **UN General Assembly elected 18 members** to the 47-member Human Rights Council for the 2025-2027 term.
- The 18 countries, including Benin, Bolivia, Colombia, Cyprus, Qatar, and Thailand, were elected by a secret ballot.



- The elected members will serve three-year terms beginning on January 1 next year. The Geneva-based Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system, responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world.
- **About a third of its 47 members** are replaced every year, ensuring that council members serve staggered three-year terms for the sake of continuity

National Maritime Heritage Complex At Lothal

• Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.

• The project will unfold in two phases, and it aligns with the government's broader vision to highlight the country's ancient maritime prowess, which dates back over 4,500 years.



- National Maritime Heritage Complex is set to be a world-class museum that will boost tourism, create jobs, and promote India's cultural and maritime legacy.
- The National Maritime Heritage Complex is designed to be a state-of-the-art museum that will reflect India's rich maritime history, from ancient to modern times. Lothal, an ancient Harappan site known for its dockyards and maritime trade routes, serves as the perfect location for such a project. The complex aims to preserve India's 4,500-year-old maritime heritage and bring it to a global audience.



- Phase 1A: Currently under construction with more than 60% physical progress.
- **Phase 1B and Phase 2:** Recently approved by the Union Cabinet after mobilization of funds.
- Phase-Wise Execution of NMHC
- Phase 1A of the National Maritime Heritage Complex is already in progress, with more than 60% of the construction completed. This phase is expected to be completed by 2025 and is being developed through the EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction) mode. The master plan for NMHC has been crafted by the renowned architectural firm M/s Architect Hafeez Contractor, and Tata Projects Limited has been entrusted with the construction.
- Phase 1B includes the construction of the lighthouse museum, which will be funded by the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL). In this phase, several elements like thematic exhibitions, research centers, and galleries related to maritime history will be developed. The Cabinet's in-principle approval for this phase sets the project on track for further expansion after the mobilization of voluntary resources and contributions.



- Phase 2, on the other hand, will focus on further development through land sublease or Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). The goal is to establish NMHC as a world-class heritage museum that attracts global tourists, researchers, and maritime enthusiasts.
- A separate society will be created under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, which will be responsible for overseeing the implementation, development, management, and operation of the NMHC. This society will be governed by a Governing Council headed by the Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.

Asian Table Tennis C'ships

• Indian men's team secured a bronze medal at the Asian Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan, after losing 0-3 to Chinese Taipei in the semifinals today. Sharath Kamal went down 0-3 to Lin Yun-Ju in the opening singles rubber. In the second singles match, Manav Thakkar fought hard before losing 1-3 to Kao Cheng-Jui. The Indian men's team had also bagged bronze medals in 2021 and 2023.





REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. Who Is The Indian Gymnast That Announced Retirement After A 25-year Competitive Career
- A. Ashish Kumar
- B. Dipa Karmakar
- C. Pranati Nayak
- D. Rakesh Patra

ANSWER: B

- 2. Which Country Received \$400 Million And A ₹3,000 Crore Currency Swap From India To Address Financial Challenges
- A. Maldives
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Nepal
- D. Bangladesh

ANSWER: A

3. In Which City Was 77th Session Of The WHO Southeast Asia Region Held

- A. Beijing
- B. Jakarta
- C. New Delhi
- D. Kuala Lumpur

ANSWER: C

4. Primary Objective Of The GREEN Meghalaya Plus Scheme Launched By Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma

- A. To promote tourism in Meghalaya
- B. To provide employment opportunities
- C. To develop infrastructure
- D. To expand forest conservation across the state

ANSWER: D

5. Which Company Launched India's Largest Hydrogen Blending Project

- A. Reliance Industries
- B. Adani Group
- C. Essar Group
- D. Indian Oil Corporation

ANSWER: B

6. Who Has Been Appointed As The Vice Chief Of The Air Staff

- A. Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh
- B. Air Marshal SP Dharkar
- C. Air Marshal Ramesh Sharma
- D. Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari

ANSWER: B

7. Where Is The MACE Observatory, Asia's Largest Imaging Cherenkov Telescope, Located

- A. Ladakh
- B. Sikkim
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: A

- 8. Which City In India Will Host The World Pickleball Championship Series
- A. New Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Hyderabad

ANSWER: B

- 9. Which Country Has Formed A Nine-member Constitution Reform Commission To Propose Reforms Within 90 Days
- A. Nepal
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Pakistan
- D. Bangladesh

ANSWER: D

- 10. Name Of The Category 5 Hurricane Approaching The Florida Coast And Prompting Mass Evacuations In The Tampa Bay Area
- A. Hurricane Helene
- B. Hurricane Milton
- C. Hurricane lan
- D. Hurricane Katrina

ANSWER: B

- 11. In Which Indian State Does The Ustad Allauddin Khan Festival Take Place
- A. Maharashtra
- B. Gujarat
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: D

- 12. On Which Date Is World Post Day Celebrated Annually
- A. October 1
- B. October 5
- C. October 9
- D. October 15

ANSWER: C

13. On Which Date Is World Mental Health Day Observed Annually

- A. September 10
- B. October 8
- C. November 1
- D. October 10

ANSWER: D

14. Who Has Been Appointed As The New Chief Of The Board Of Control For Cricket In India's (BCCI) Anti-corruption Unit

- A. Philip Green
- B. Rakesh Asthana
- C. Sharad Kumar
- D. Yogesh Chander

ANSWER: C

15. Which Bank Partnered With IFC To Provide India's First Blue Loan Of \$500 Million

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. ICICI Bank
- C. State Bank of India
- D. Axis Bank

ANSWER: D

16. Mount Dhaulagiri Is Located In Which Country

- A. India
- B. Myanmar
- C. Nepal
- D. China

ANSWER: C

17. Which City Is The Venue Of Mindfulness India Summit

- A. Kolkata
- B. Mumbai
- C. Chennai
- D. Hyderabad

ANSWER: B

18. Amangarh Tiger Reserve Is Situated In Which State

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: C

19. What Kind Of Infection Is Trachoma, Recently Eliminated By India As A Public Health Problem

- A. Bacterial
- B. Fungal
- C. Viral
- D. Parasitic

ANSWER: A

20. Which Of Following Achievements Is Not Associated With Iltutmish

- A. Initiation of the silver tanka and copper jetal
- B. Establishment of the iqtadari system
- C. Formation of the Chalisa
- D. Advocacy of the Divine Right Theory

ANSWER: D