



PLUTUS IAS

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1. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: November 25

Every year, the International Day for Elimination of violence against women is marked by the United Nations on November 25. The day is celebrated to create awareness that women around the world are subjected to domestic violence, rape and other forms of violence. This year the day is celebrated under the theme

Theme: "Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect"

The International Day of Elimination of Violence against women also starts the "16 Days of Activism against Gender-based violence".

16-Days of Activism

It is a campaign that runs every year between November 25 and December 10. December 10 is celebrated as the Human Rights Day. The campaign was first initiated in 1991. More than 6,000 organizations from 187 countries participate in the organization.

The following are the significant dates in the course of the campaign

- November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against women
- November 29: International Women Human Rights Defenders Day
- December 1: World AIDS Day
- December 5: International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
- December 10: International Human Rights Day

All these days are marked by the United Nations.

Why was November 25 chosen?

On November 25, 1960 three Mirabal sisters were assassinated upon orders from the Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo. In 1981, activists from Caribbean Feminist Encuentros and Latin America marked November 25 as day to raise awareness of violence against women.

Violence against women

The United Nations defines violence against women as the act of gender-based violence that results in physical, mental or sexual harm. It also includes threats of arbitrary deprivation of liberty. According to the World Health Organization, one in three women (that is 35% of women) are experiencing physical violence.

Violence against Women in India

According to National Crime Record Bureau, the violence against women prevails in India in the form of rapes, dowry deaths, domestic violence, etc.

2. President Ram Nath Kovind boards Air India One for its inaugural flight

President Ram Nath Kovind boarded the Air India one-B777 aircraft. The president boarded the aircraft to visit Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh and offer prayers at the Venkateshwara Swamy temple. The aircraft is carrying its first VVIP official.

About Air India one

The Air India one will be a call sign for the VVIP. The aircraft is to be used by the president, vice president and prime minister of India. The aircraft is fuel efficient. This has a longer range than that of the B747-400 aircraft deployed for similar VVIP operations.

The Air India one is to be operated by the Indian Air Force air headquarters communication Squadron that is based at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.

Key Features of Air India One

It is equipped with missile defence systems Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) self-protection suites. LAIRCM consists of missile warning sensors, control interface unit, lesser transmitter assembly and processors to track, detect, jam and counter incoming infrared missiles. This defence system installed brings Air India One on par with Air Force One.

Also, the aircraft is equipped with communication systems. These systems allow video and mid-air audio to connect with top-tier security. It also has a medical room, a press briefing room, two conference rooms and a secure communication room with network jammers.

Other Key Security Features

- The aircraft consists of radar warning receivers, flares and chaff, intruder detection system, automatic external defibrillator.
- The Intruder Detection System identifies suspicious patterns from someone trying to break into the security system of the aircraft.

- The Automatic External Defibrillator device automatically diagnoses life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias.
- The Flares are high-temperature heat sources that mislead heat seeking or heat sensitive missiles.

Names of the Aircraft

The three aircrafts to carry the top three officials of India have been named as Rajdoot, Rajhans and Rajkamal.

3.DRDO launches first Varunastra, a heavy weight Torpedo

The Defence Research Development Organization recently flagged off the first Varunastra, the heavyweight torpedo. The torpedo was designed and developed by the BDL, Visakhapatnam Unit of Indian Navy.

About Varunastra

It is a ship launched electrically propelled heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo that is capable of targeting quiet submarines. It can be deployed in both shallow and deep-water environments. Varunastra is the first heavyweight torpedo of India.

It was first inducted into Indian Navy in 2016. The weight of the torpedo is 1500 kilograms. Operational range is 40 kilometres. The maximum speed of the torpedo is 74 kilometre per hour. Also, Varun Astra is the only torpedo in the world to have a GPS based locating aid.

The torpedo is capable of carrying a warhead of 250 kilogram. It is powered by a Silver oxide zinc battery.

What is a torpedo?

It is an underwater weapon with an explosive warhead that is designed to detonate when in proximity to the target or on contact with the target.

Torpedoes of Indian Navy

Takshak, advanced light torpedo Shyena, SMART and Varunastra are the Torpedo of the Indian Navy. The Advanced Light Torpedo Shyena is an indigenous lightweight anti-submarine. It was developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory of DRDO. The manufacturing programme of Shyena was started by the DRDO in 1990s. SMART is Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo. It is canistered hybrid system. The range of the SMART system is 650 km. It is an advanced lightweight Torpedo with two-way data link. It can be launched from a truck based coastal battery and also from a warship.

BDL

BDL is the production agency of DRDO manufacturing Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile. Also, it is a production agency for the Astra Air-to-air missile system.

4.China's Chang'e-5 Lunar Mission to bring back rock samples from the moon

China recently launched the Change-5 Lunar Mission. The mission is the first probe in four decades to bring back rock samples from the moon from its previously unexplored portions. Change-5 is the first probe to land on the far side of the moon.

As the rotation and revolution time period of the moon is same, only one side of the moon is constantly visible to the earth. The other side of the moon till date remains unexplored and is called the far side of the moon.

About Change-5 Mission

The mission is named after the Chinese moon goddess. It was launched from the Long March-5 carrier rocket, the largest carrier rocket of China. The mission will land in the Mons Rumker region of the moon. The mission will operate for one lunar day on the surface which is two weeks on the earth. If the mission is successful, China will become the third country to collect lunar samples after USA and Soviet Union.

The Change-5 consists of a lander, lunar orbiter and an ascent probe. It has a coring drill, robotic arm and a sample chamber to place the collected samples. It is also equipped with penetrating radar, camera and a spectrometer. The spacecraft is expected to return to the earth by December 15, 2020.

What is the plan?

As the spacecraft reaches the moon's orbit, it will deploy a pair of vehicles to the moon's surface namely ascender and lander. The lander will drill the moon surface and scoop out the rocks with the help of its robotic arm. The scooped-out material will be carried to the ascender vehicle. The ascending vehicle will then carry the material to the spacecraft.

Other Lunar Samples

Previously lunar samples were collected by Apollo 11 mission. The rocks found on the moon are older than those on the earth.

In 1970, Luna 16 of Soviet Union brought back 101 grams of rocks from the moon. Later other missions of the Soviet Union such as Luna 24 collected samples weighing 170 grams.

5.Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana: Ministry of Food Processing approves Rs 234.68 crores of projects

The Union Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar approved food processing projects of Rs 234.68 crores. Around seven proposals received under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana were approved. The proposals were sent under the Scheme for Creation of Infrastructure for Agro Processing Cluster of PMKSY.

National Food Processing Policy

The policy was released in 2019. It aims to develop food processing sector and address critical gaps hampering its growth. The policy aims to increase the investment in the food processing sector by six times by 2035.

Key Features

The policy aims to incentivise supply chain infrastructure of the food processing sector. It will identify, promote production clusters and agriculture processing units. The policy aims to provide capital investment subsidy and subsidies for technology upgradation of existing units.

Other Recent Developments under the CEFPPC scheme

The Ministry of Food Processing recently approved 28 food processing projects of worth Rs 320 crores under the Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities Scheme. The scheme is a component of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana. It will help in reducing wastages, generating employment opportunities and ensure value addition.

Background

The Government of India is planning to expand the food processing industries in the country in order to double farmers income by 2022. The major challenges faced by the Food Processing industries in the country are inconsistency in central and state policies, trained manpower and lack of access to credit.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana

It was introduced in 2016 as SAMPADA, Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development Ago-Processing Cluster. Later in 2017, it was renamed as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana. There are seven components included in the scheme namely mega food parks, infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities, Creation of backward and forward linkages, Human resource and institutions, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, Infrastructure for agro-processing clusters.

6.India-EU: Sixth Round of consultations on disarmament and non-proliferation

India and European Union held the 6th round of consultations on disarmament and non-proliferation matter. The partners discussed on exchange of information on development in the field of chemical, nuclear and biological disarmament. They also discussed the development of outer space security, conventional weapons and non-proliferation. They held talks on strategic stability of environment, export control regions and other development of mutual interest.

India European Union trade

European Union is the largest trading partner of India. As of 2016, the European Union accounts to 12.5% of India's overall trade. This is ahead of China that accounts to 10.8% and the USA that accounts to 9.3 %. On the other hand, India is the ninth largest trading partner of European Union.

The major exports of India to European Union are pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, Gems and Jewellery. Between 2005 and 2016 the trade between the partners has tripled. India is one among a very few Nations that have a trade surplus with European Union.

The relations between India and European Union is defined by the European Union India cooperation agreement, 1994. However, the partners are still negotiating a free trade deal since 2007 and have not yet come to a conclusion. In 2019, the trade between India and European Union was 104.3 billion USD.

Disarmament policy of India

India adopted the Nuclear Doctrine in 2003 under which India pledged its commitment towards a nuclear weapon free world.

Nuclear weapon stockpiles

According to the SIPRI (Stockholm international peace Research Institute), in 2019, nine states in the world possessed around 13, 865 nuclear weapons. They were the United Kingdom, India, France, Pakistan, China, USA, Russia, North Korea and Israel.

According to the institute the nuclear Arsenal of India went up from 140 in 2019 to 150 in 2020. China on the other hand is developing a nuclear triad for the first time. Under this China is making land, sea and nuclear capable missiles and aircraft.

7 46 AICTE Training and Learning Academy Faculty Development Programmes inaugurated

The Union Education Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated 46 online AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy Faculty Development Programmes (FDP). It was launched to train the teachers in higher education institutions association with AICTE (All India Council of Technical Education).

ATAL Academy

The main objective of the academy is to provide quality technical education all over India. It promotes research and entrepreneurship. The ATAL-FDPs are to be organised by premier institutes of India such as IITs, IIITs, NITs and research labs. Currently there are eleven ATAL academies in India. They have trained more than 1 lakh people and has thus been included in the Book of World Records, London.

Other Programmes implemented by AICTE

The AICTE is implementing Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. It was launched in 2015. It is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The programme aims to mobilize youth to adopt skill training. So far around 19 lakh students have been trained.

Concerns of Teacher Education in India

According to the National Council of Education Research and Training Study, there is no systematic incorporation of a feedback system on the training of teachers in the country. The current training system is unable to cover tough spots.

The following are the major problems associated with teacher education in the country

- There are no systems to monitor teachers in the country. The National Council of Teacher Education is a regulatory body. It only controls the functioning of institutes training the teachers. It prevents them from becoming commercial institutions. They do not focus on quality of education provided by the teachers or the teaching practices used by them.
- There are no proper methodologies in selecting teachers.
- Lack of proper facilities and infrastructure. Around 20% of teacher education is run in rented buildings.