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1. COVID -19 Global Action Meeting (Feb. 16, 2022)

The United States State Department (Foreign Ministry) organized Covid-19 Global Action meeting in a virtual mode on 14 February 2022.

- United State Secretary of State Anthony Blinken hosted the meeting.
- Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla participated in the meeting.
- He said that India has supplied over 162 million doses of corona vaccine to 97 countries and two United Nations organisations including Myanmar and Afghanistan.
- India will also supply 1 billion vaccine doses to the Indo-Pacific region in 2022 under the QUAD vaccine programme.

2. First Global Summit on Reimagining Museums in India (Feb. 15, 2022)

Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of Northeastern Region (DoNER), Govt. of India Mr G. Kishan Reddy ,inaugurated the two day Global Summit on 'Reimagining Museums in India" in Hyderabad on 15 January 2022.

- The summit will be held on 15 and 16 February 2022.
- The global summit is being organised by the Union Ministry of Culture
- The summit is being attended by the delegates of India, Australia, France, Italy, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom online.

3. India Telecom 2022 inaugurated by the Ashwini Vaishnaw (Feb. 8, 2022)

Union Minister of Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railway, Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the "India Telecom 2022" on 8 Feburary 2022.

- The "India Telecom 2022" is being organised by by Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) from February 8th to 10th, 2022
- It is being held in New Delhi
- The main aim of the event is to promote Indian telecom equipment to the internal buyer and boost the export of Indian Telecom equipment.
- Buyers from more than 45 countries are attending the event

4. 11th India-Oman Joint Military Cooperation Committee Meeting held in New Delhi (Feb. 2, 2022)

The 11th India Oman Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) meeting was held in New Delhi on 1 February 2022.

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- The Indian side was led by the Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and the Oman side was led by Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence, Oman Dr Mohammed Bin Nasser Bin Ali Al-Zaabi.
- The JMCC is the highest level of defence interaction between India and Oman, which evaluates and guides the whole framework of defence exchanges between the two countries.
- This meeting is being conducted after a three years gap . The last 9th Meeting was held in Oman in 2018.

Oman

It is an Arab State in West Asia.

Capital of Oman: **Muscat**

Currency of Oman: Omani Rial

5. India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022 approved at 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting (Jan. 29, 2022)

The 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting with India was held on 28 January 2022 on a virtual platform. Shri Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for Communications (MoSC) and Admiral Tin Aung San, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Myanmar co-chaired the meeting.

- The ADGMIN is an annual meeting of Telecom Ministers of 10 ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries -Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam and the dialogue partner countries Australia, Canada, China, EU, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia, United Kingdom and US.
- The meeting discussed and deliberated various matters relevant to strengthening regional digital cooperation in the spirit of digital inclusion and integration.
- The Ministers meeting approved the India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022. The work plan includes system for combating the use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets, WiFi Access network interface for nationwide public internet, the capacity building and knowledge sharing in emerging areas in the field of Information and Communication Technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), 5G, Advanced Satellite Communication, Cyber Forensics, etc.

6. 4th National Conference on Agriculture for Summer Campaign 2021-22 (Jan. 28, 2022)

Union Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister Narendra Kumar Tomar virtually addressed the 4th National Conference on Agriculture for Summer Campaign 2021-22 held **at New Delhi** on 27 January 2022.

The conference mainly focused on Zaid crops and the objective of the Zaid conference was to review and assess the crop performance during the preceding crop seasons and fix crop-wise targets for the summer season in consultation with State Governments.

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The Minister said that the area under cultivation of Zaid crops including rice has increased progressively 2.7 times from 29.71 lakh hectares in 2017-18 to 80.46 lakh hectares in 2020-21.

According to the minister,

- the country produced 3086.47 lakh tonnes of food grains during 2020-21 (4th Advance Estimates), which will be an all-time record.
- Pulses and oilseed production has also achieved all-time highs at 257.19 and 361.01 lakh tonnes, respectively.
- Production of cotton is being estimated at 353.84 lakh bales with which India is set to rise to the first position in the world.

Cropping season in India

According to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) there are three agricultural seasons in India

Kharif Season

- Kharif crops are grown with the onset of monsoon in different parts of the country and these are harvested in September-October.
- Important crops grown during this season are paddy, maize, jowar, bajra, tur (arhar), moong, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut and soybean.

Rabi Season

- Rabi crops are sown in winter from October to December and harvested in summer from April to June.
- Some of the important rabi crops are wheat, barley, peas, gram and mustard.

Zaid Season

- In between the rabi and the kharif seasons, there is a short season during the summer months known as the Zaid season.
- Some of the crops produced during 'zaid' are watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, vegetables and fodder crops.

7. Business Summit on National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (Dec. 29, 2021)

- The National Mission on Edible Oil- Oil Palm Business Summit for states other than North Eastern States was held in **Hyderabad on 28 December 2021.**
- It was inaugurated by Union Minister for Agriculture Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.
- This is the second such summit of the Mission, the first was held in Guwahati for North Eastern states on 5 October.
- The minister said that currently about 3 lakh hectares of land is under palm oil cultivation while studies have shown that about 28 lakh hectares of land is suitable for the oil palm cultivation in the country. It is our mission to bring 28-lakh hectares of land under cultivation to make India Aatmanirbhar in edible oil",
- India is the world's largest importer of palm oil in the world.

8. Summits (Dec. 19, 2021)

27th The CII Partnership Summit 2021

- The 27th edition of The CII Partnership Summit is being held virtually By Confederation of Indian Industries(CII), in partnership with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India from 13 -15 December 2021
- Theme Partnering for Building a New World: Growth, Competitiveness, Sustainability, Technology.

National Summit on Agro and Food Processing

- It is organised by the Government of Gujarat from 14 to 16 December 2021 at Anan d, Gujarat.
- The theme of the summit is "Agro and Food Processing: Entering a new era of Cooperation Atma Nirbhar Krishi".
- It is being attended by over 5000 farmers who will be present in the Summit, apart from farmers being connecting Live through Central Institutes of ICAR, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and ATMA (Agricultural Technology Management Agency) network in the States.

9. Summits (Dec. 12, 2021)

1. 5th Indian Ocean Conference

- The fifth Indian Ocean Conference is being held in Abu Dhabi from 6-10 December 2021.
- The Theme of the Conference is "Ecology,, Economy, Epidemic"
- The Chairman of the conference is the Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajpakse
- India Is represented by the External Affairs Minister Mr. S. Jaishankar

2. Summit for Democracy

Theme of the Summit: "combating authoritarianism, fighting corruption and promoting human rights".

- Organised by the State Department of the United States
- Biden announced plans for the U.S. to spend up to \$424 millions around the world to support Independent media, anti-corruption work and more.

PM Modi Addresses Democracy Summit

Indian Prime Minister Mr Narender Modi also participated in the summit virtually.

The PM said that the "four pillars of Indian democratic governments" are "sensitivity, accountability, participation and reform orientation".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Democracies should jointly deal with social media and cryptocurrencies.

The PM further added that, we all need to constantly improve our democratic practices and systems. And, we all need to continuously enhance inclusion, transparency, human dignity, responsive grievance redressal and decentralization of power.

- Major countries like Russia, China, Saudi Arabia have not been invited to the summit.
- Pakistan was invited to the summit but it chose to back off from the summit over the fear that it will offend its close ally China.

10. 5th Indian Ocean Conference (Dec. 6, 2021)

- The fifth Indian Ocean Conference is being held in **Abu Dhabi** from 6-10 December 2021.
- The Theme of the Conference is "Ecology,, Economy, Epidemic"
- The Chairman of the conference is the Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajpakse
- India Is represented by the External Affairs Minister Mr. S. Jaishankar
- It has been organised by India Foundation in collaboration with RSIS Singapore, Institute of National Security Studies, Sri Lanka, Emirates Centers for Strategic Studies and Research. UAE.