

1. India, US hold 3rd bilateral two plus two (2+2) Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi

- From the Indian side, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar led the delegation. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defence Mark Esper led the US delegation.
- **India and US signed five agreements in total:**
 1. **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)** between the Ministry of Defence, Government of India and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Department of Defense of United States of America.
 2. **Memorandum of Understanding for Technical Cooperation in Earth Observations and Earth Sciences** between the Ministry of Earth Sciences of India and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of USA.
 3. Arrangement extending the duration of the Memorandum of Understanding between India and USA concerning cooperation with the **Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership**, India.
 4. **Agreement for the Electronic Exchange of Customs Data** between the Postal Operators (India Post and United States Postal Service)
 5. Letter of Intent between the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, New Delhi, Ministry of Ayush, India and the Office of Cancer Complementary and Alternative Medicine, National Cancer Institute, Department of Health and Human Services, USA for cooperation in the **field of Ayurveda and Cancer Research.**
- **Note: First 2+2 dialogue** was held in New Delhi in 2018. **Second 2+2 dialogue** was held in Washington D.C. in 2019.

2. 6th BRICS Parliamentary Forum

- The 6th BRICS Parliamentary Forum **under the Russian Chairmanship** (Chairman- Vyachaslav Volodin) was held on 27 October. Five members of BRICS- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa participate in this forum.
- The theme was BRICS partnership in the interest of the global stability, general safety and innovative growth: parliamentary dimension.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that BRICS countries need to intensify their collective fight against terrorism which poses the biggest threat to humankind.
- **Note: 12th BRICS Summit** is scheduled to be held on 17th November 2020 under the chairmanship of Russia.

3. Asan Conservation Reserve gets Ramsar site tag - a first for Uttarakhand

- Asan Conservation Reserve has become the first wetland from Uttarakhand to be included in the prestigious Ramsar sites list.
- Besides Asan, Kabartal Wetland from Bihar was the second new site to get included in this list.



- On the fresh inclusion, the Ramsar website stated that “India has named two new Wetlands of International Importance, bringing its total number of ‘Ramsar Sites’ to 39.”
- Asan attracts a big population of migratory birds in winters. The man-made wetland possibly attracts the biggest number of Brahminy Duck or Ruddy Shelduck in the entire India.
- **About Ramsar Convention:** Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It is also known as the Convention on Wetlands. It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the Convention was signed in 1971.

Location: Ramsar, Iran

Effective: 21 December 1975

Signed: 2 February 1971

4. 4th India Energy Forum (October 26-28, 2020)

- The Prime Minister inaugurates 4th India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK.
- Leading global bodies project, there will be a contraction in global energy demand in the next few years also but they project India to emerge as a leading consumer.
- India is said to nearly double its energy consumption in the long term.
- India had aimed to increase the renewable energy installed capacity by 175 GW by 2022, 450 GW by 2030.

5. Luis Arce declared as Bolivia's president-elect

- Luis Arce, the candidate for the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) party, has won the presidential elections.

- **About Bolivia:**

Capitals: La Paz, Sucre

Currency: Boliviano

Continent: South America

6. Uttar Pradesh Government to establish anti-human trafficking Police Stations in each and every district

- These Police Stations will be given enough powers to register the case and investigate the matter independently.
- State government is going to establish 40 new anti-trafficking units which will work like police stations in districts and will conduct investigation after registering the cases.
- Earlier, only 35 districts in the state had Police stations of anti human trafficking unit which was established in 2011 and 2018.



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- The new Police stations are being established after directives from women safety division of Union Government.

7. IIT Kanpur and ASI sign MoU with Italian institutes for restoration of monuments

- The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have signed an agreement with two institutions from Italy, seeking restoration and protection of historical monuments.
- Two institutions from Italy are Ca'Foscari University of Venice and Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti E Paesaggio, Venice.
- **About ASI:** The **Archaeological Survey of India** is an Indian government agency attached to the Ministry of Culture that is responsible for archaeological research and the conservation and preservation of cultural monuments in the country.

Director General: V. Vidyavathi

Founded: 1861

Parent organisation: Ministry of Culture

Headquarters: New Delhi

8. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu launches festival of 'Parampara Series 2020-National Festival of Music and Dance'

- It is organized by Natya Tarangini in partnership with the United Nations
- Natya Tarangini is organising the 'Parampara Series' continuously since past 23 years, and adopting innovative efforts to make it happen for the 24th year, even in difficult times like this.

9. AIM (Atal Innovation Mission) Launches India–Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE) with Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

- It's a two-day hackathon on circular economy on 7 and 8 December.
- I-ACE will focus on identification and development of innovative technology solutions by bright-minded students, startups and MSMEs of both nations.
- The **four key themes** for the hackathon are as follows:
 - Innovation in packaging reducing packaging waste
 - Innovation in food supply chains avoiding waste
 - Creating opportunities for plastic waste reduction
 - Recycling critical energy metals and e-waste



- **Note:** The **Atal Innovation Mission** (AIM) is a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship activities across the country.

10. Scientist, Dr. Satish Mishra bags "Dr. Tulsi Das Chugh Award-2020" given by National Academy of Medical Sciences (India)

- The Orations & Awards Committee of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India), has selected Dr. Satish Mishra, Principal Scientist, Division of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow in recognition of his research work on Malaria parasite's life cycle.

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