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Five Eyes Alliance

- This intelligence-sharing alliance comprising the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.
- The Five Eyes Alliance traces its origins to World War II when the UK and the US decided to share intelligence after successfully breaking German and Japanese codes and initially Britain-USA (BRUSA) agreement was established.
- Canada joined the alliance in 1949, followed by New Zealand and Australia in 1956, forming the Five Eyes.
- The Five Eyes countries collaborate closely on matters of intelligence gathering and security. They share mutual interests, including addressing the rise of China, which has led to increased alignment in recent years. The alliance's strength is attributed to shared language and trust built over decades.

Fourth Gender Samvaad

- The fourth edition of 'Gender Samvaad,' a collaborative initiative by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) and the Institute for What Works to Advance Gender Equality (IWWAGE), brought together thousands of participants in a virtual event.
- This platform aims to create awareness about DAY-NRLM's gender-focused initiatives in India, with a specific focus on amplifying the voices of states and self-help group (SHG) members.

India Smart Cities Conclave 2023

- The India Smart Cities Conclave, organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, is set to take place at the Brilliant Convention Centre in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, on September 26 and 27.
- The Conclave serves as a platform for these cities to highlight their exemplary work under the Smart Cities Mission and shape the future of urban transformation in the country.

ASEAN Defence Meeting Plus Counter-Terrorism Exercise

- An Indian Army contingent embarked on a journey to Russia to participate in the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus Expert Working Group on Counter Terrorism.
- This significant event, known as the Counter Terrorism Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2023, is scheduled to take place from September 25th to September 30th.

Bharat Drone Shakti 2023 Exhibition

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** is set to inaugurate the **Bharat Drone Shakti 2023 exhibition** at Hindan Air Base in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Osiris-Rex probe

- **seven-year voyage** comes to an end when a NASA capsule landed in the **Utah desert**, carrying to Earth the **largest asteroid samples** ever collected.
- Four years after its **2016** launch, the **Osiris-Rex** probe landed on the **asteroid Bennu** and collected roughly nine ounces (250 grams) of dust from its rocky surface.

54th Tiger Reserve

- The Madhya Pradesh Government has unveiled the **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve**, becoming the seventh tiger reserve in the state and the **54th in India**.
- Location: It is spread across Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur districts of Madhya Pradesh, will encompass areas within the Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Parts of the reserve fall under the Narmada and Yamuna River basins.

MS Swaminathan

- **M.S. Swaminathan**, was a legendary figure in the field of agriculture and a true humanitarian, passed away at the age of 98.

- During a critical juncture in India's history, when the country was on the brink of a mass famine and faced severe food shortages, Swaminathan collaborated with fellow scientist Norman Borlaug and others to develop high-yielding varieties of wheat and rice.
- This marked the inception of the '**Green Revolution**,' a transformative initiative that would significantly increase crop productivity through the adoption of chemical-biological technology.

13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference

- The **13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC)** took place from September 26 to 27, 2023, at the **Manekshaw Centre** in New Delhi.
- This biennial event, co-hosted by the **Indian Army** and the **US Army Pacific**, brought together army chiefs from 30 Indo-Pacific nations to deliberate on security cooperation, collective strategies, and pressing regional issues.
- The primary objective of the IPACC was to foster security cooperation among participating nations in the Indo-Pacific region.

India and UN Launch Global Capacity Building Initiative

- **India** and the **United Nations** have jointly introduced a significant capacity-building initiative known as the "**India-UN Capacity Building Initiative**."
- This initiative is designed to facilitate the sharing of India's development experiences, best practices, and expertise with partner countries in the Global South.

First Green Hydrogen-Run Bus That Emits Just Water

- On September 25, 2023, the **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** achieved a significant milestone in India's transition to clean energy by unveiling the nation's **first green hydrogen-powered bus**.
- **Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri**, during the ceremonial flag-off of these innovative buses, emphasized that hydrogen is set to become India's transitional fuel, paving the way for a cleaner, more sustainable future.
- The **IOC's Research and Development Center in Faridabad** is spearheading the production of green hydrogen for the initial pilot run.

World University Rankings 2024

- The **20th edition** of the **World's Best Universities** by the **Times Higher Education (THE)** rankings has been unveiled, showcasing the top higher education institutions globally.
- Oxford University in the United Kingdom has clinched the coveted first place for an unprecedented eighth consecutive year, with Stanford University in the United States securing second place. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is third in the rankings.
- India, a burgeoning force in higher education, has seen notable growth in the latest World University Rankings 2024. A total of 91 Indian universities have secured positions on the list, surpassing last year's count of 75.
- **The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore** has made history by securing the top position among Indian universities.

Global Innovation Index 2023

- **India** retains **40th rank out of 132 economies** in the **Global Innovation Index 2023** rankings published by the **World Intellectual Property Organization**.
- **The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has also been collaborating in India's journey towards an innovation-driven economy.
- This year, the **NITI Aayog**, in partnership with the **CII** and the **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**, is hosting, virtually, the India Launch of the GII 2023 on 29th September 2023.
- For the 13th year in a row, Switzerland is the most innovative economy in 2023 followed by **Sweden, the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore**.

‘Sankalp Saptaah’

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch a week-long programme called ‘Sankalp Saptaah’ on September 30, 2023.
- This visionary initiative is closely tied to the effective execution of the **Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)**, a nationwide endeavor launched by the Prime Minister earlier in the year.
- The overarching goal of this initiative is to **enhance governance at the block level**, ultimately improving the quality of life for citizens.
- The ABP is focused on **500 Aspirational Blocks** spanning across 329 districts in India. Its primary objective is to **uplift the living standards of citizens** by enhancing governance and public services delivery in these areas.

Country’s First Cartography Museum

- The Minister of Tourism and Culture of Uttarakhand, **Satpal Maharaj**, inaugurated the **George Everest Cartography Museum** in the picturesque town of **Mussoorie, Uttarakhand**, on the occasion of **World Tourism Day**.

‘8th continent’

- A dedicated team of international geologists and seismologists has embarked on a mission to chart the depths of **Zealandia**, a relatively unknown landmass submerged beneath the Pacific Ocean.
- Zealandia, often referred to as the eighth continent, remains shrouded in oceanic mystery, with a staggering 94% of its expanse concealed beneath the sea’s surface. The remaining 6% peeks above the waves, encompassing islands such as New Zealand and its neighbouring isles.

Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance

- The Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance, often referred to as simply “**Five Eyes**,” is a secretive international intelligence coalition comprising five English-speaking countries.
- The Five Eyes alliance originated as a post-war intelligence-sharing agreement between the **United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand**.
- Formed in 1946, its primary objective was to share **signals intelligence (SIGINT)** to counter the emerging Soviet threat during the Cold War.

‘Haikun’

- **Taiwan**, a self-governing island in East Asia, has recently unveiled its **first domestically-made submarine**, named the **Haikun**.
- The Chinese government has responded to Taiwan’s submarine with strong rhetoric, with a defense ministry spokesperson dismissing Taiwan’s efforts as “idiotic nonsense” and asserting that “no number of weapons” can prevent reunification with the mainland.

Second Tiger Reserve in Bihar

- Bihar state is preparing to establish its second tiger reserve within the **Kaimur district**.
- The upcoming tiger reserve in **Kaimur district** will complement the existing **Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR)** located in the **West Champaran district of Bihar**.

Uttar Pradesh Achieves 100% ODF Plus Coverage

- Uttar Pradesh, has achieved a remarkable feat by attaining 100% Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus status across its 95,767 villages. This significant accomplishment was officially announced on September 28, highlighting the state’s commitment to sanitation and cleanliness.
- An ODF Plus Model village is one which is sustaining its ODF status and has arrangements for both Solid Waste Management and Liquid Waste Management; and observes visual cleanliness, i.e., minimal litter, minimal stagnant

wastewater, no plastic waste dump in public places; and displays ODF Plus Information, Education & Communication (IEC) messages.

- Of the 95,767 ODF Plus villages, 81,744 villages are ODF Plus Aspiring villages with arrangements for Solid Waste Management or Liquid Waste Management, 10,217 villages are ODF Plus Rising villages with arrangements for both Solid Waste Management and Liquid Waste Management and 3,806 villages are ODF Plus Model villages. Overall, so far, 15,649 villages have arrangements for solid waste management, and 95,048 villages have arrangements for liquid waste management.
- This achievement of 100 % is marked during ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) – 2023 campaign. SHS is celebrated annually from 15th September to 2nd October under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Vulcan 20-20 Project

- The UK is undertaking a groundbreaking project to create the world's most powerful laser, called "Vulcan 20-20," with an £85 million investment from the UK Science and Technology Facilities Council.
- This endeavor promises far-reaching implications, with the potential to revolutionize scientific exploration across various domains, including clean energy and advancements in cancer treatment.

Iran Launches Noor 3 Military Satellite

- Iran has successfully placed its third military satellite, Noor 3, into orbit. The launch was carried out by Iran's Revolutionary Guards using a three-stage Qasem rocket on September 27, 2023.

DXN

- The upcoming Noida International Airport (NIA) in Jewar has received its own unique international three-letter code, 'DXN,' from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- The 'D' represents Delhi, the national capital, while 'N' stands for Noida, showcasing the airport's presence in Western Uttar Pradesh. The 'X' symbolizes connectivity, both within India and globally. This unique code serves as an essential identifier for the airport's distinct location and purpose.