

10 November 13th news:

International:

Israel Signals Free Hand in Syria as U.S., Russia Expand Truce

Israel on 12th November signalled that it would keep up military strikes across its frontier with Syria to prevent any encroachment by Iranian-allied forces, even as the United States and Russia try to build up a ceasefire in the area.

U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin affirmed joint efforts to stabilise Syria as its civil war wanes, including with the expansion of a July 7 truce in the southwestern triangle bordering Israel and Jordan.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned Gaza militants against attacking Israel after the Islamic militant group vowed revenge for the demolition of one of its attack tunnels.

Bilateral

Modi holds first 'quad' meet with US, Japan, Australia

Giving shape to their security cooperation under the proposed quadrilateral coalition, India, the US, Japan and Australia on 12th November held their first official talks here with a focus on keeping the Indo-Pacific region “free and open”, seen as a move to counter China’s aggressive behaviour in the area.

Soon after the meeting, India, Australia and Japan issued separate statements listing the Indo-Pacific as the major area of the deliberations and resolved to expand cooperation to uphold a rules-based order and respect for international law in the strategically important region. The meeting comes ahead of the Asean summit on which is also likely to discuss the security challenges facing the Indo-Pacific region and China's military expansion in the South China Sea.

Officials of the four countries at the “quad” meeting agreed that a free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region serves the long-term interests of all countries in the region and of the world at large.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi landed in the Philippines on 12th November to attend the Asean-India and East Asia summits. Before arriving in Manila, US President Donald Trump said in Hanoi on that he would be willing to mediate between China and five of its neighbours to resolve their competing claims in the South China Sea.

ASEAN:

The **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** is a regional intergovernmental organisation comprising ten Southeast Asian states which promotes Pan-Asianism and intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, military, educational and cultural integration amongst its members and Asian states. Since its formation on 8 August 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, the organisation's membership has expanded to

include Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. Its principal aims include accelerating economic growth, social progress, and sociocultural evolution among its members, alongside the protection of regional stability and the provision of a mechanism for member countries to resolve differences peacefully. ASEAN is an official United Nations Observer. Communication by members across nations takes place in English.

ASEAN Summit:

The **ASEAN Summit** is a semi-annual meeting held by the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in relation to economic, and cultural development of Southeast Asian countries.

The league of **ASEAN** is currently connected with other countries who aimed to participate on the *missions and visions* of the league. Apparently, the league is conducting an annual meetings with other countries in an organisation collectively known as the *ASEAN dialogue partners*. ASEAN +3 adds China, Japan and South Korea. The formal summit are held in three days. The usual itinerary are as follows:

ASEAN leaders hold an internal organisation meeting.

ASEAN leaders hold a conference together with foreign ministers of the ASEAN Regional Forum.

Leaders of 3 ASEAN Dialogue Partners (also known as ASEAN+3) namely China, Japan and South Korea hold a meeting with the ASEAN leaders.

And a separate meeting is set for leaders of 2 ASEAN Dialogue Partners (also known as ASEAN+CER) namely Australia and New Zealand.

Economy:

Only 'Made in India' equipment for BharatNet: Govt

The government on 12th November said that after the telecom revolution in India, the BharatNet project will be the biggest user of 'Made in India' equipment, "ruggedised" to suit the Indian rural conditions.

Both the fibre and the Gigabit-capable Passive Optical Networks (GPON) equipment are fully made in India with C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics technology

No foreign companies will be allowed in the future as well, that it will be all 'Made in India' equipment — GPON, optical line terminals, and optical network terminal — for broadband connections.

The first phase of BharatNet is on track and will be completed by December, which will then connect one lakh gram panchayats (around three lakh villages). And, once the second phase is also complete (by March 2019), the project will contribute a lot to the country's growth

Kerala, Karnataka and Haryana have already achieved BharatNet connectivity. A 10 per cent increase in Internet usage in India will lead to a 3.3 per cent increase in GDP. That means around Rs. 4.5 lakh crore can be potentially added to GDP once this network reaches all institutions and individuals on completion of phase-II

India is laying around 250 km of fibre per day, but to complete the BharatNet project by 2019 the government needs to lay 500 km per day

BharatNet Project:

BharatNet shall be a project of national importance to establish, by 2017, a highly scalable network infrastructure accessible on a non-discriminatory basis, to provide on demand, affordable broadband connectivity of 2 Mbps to 20 Mbps for all households and on demand capacity to all institutions, to realise the vision of Digital India, in partnership with States and the private sector.

The entire project is being funded by Universal service Obligation Fund (USOF), which was set up for improving telecom services in rural and remote areas of the country. The objective is to facilitate the delivery of e-governance, e-health, e-education, e-banking, Internet and other services to the rural India.

National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) is an ambitious initiative to trigger a broadband revolution in rural areas. NOFN was envisaged as an information super-highway through the creation of a robust middle-mile infrastructure for reaching broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats.

The National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) aims to connect all the 2,50,000 Gram panchayats in the country and provide 100 Mbps connectivity to all gram panchayats (GPs). To achieve this, the existing fibres of PSUs (BSNL, Railtel and Power Grid) were utilised and incremental fibre was laid to connect to Gram Panchayats wherever necessary. Dark fibre network thus created was lit by appropriate technology thus creating sufficient bandwidth at the Gram Panchayats