

## **November 22<sup>nd</sup> news:**

### **International:**

#### **Robert Mugabe Resigns as Zimbabwe's President, Ending 37-Year Rule**

Robert Mugabe — who ruled Zimbabwe since independence in 1980 resigned as president on 21<sup>st</sup> November shortly after lawmakers began impeachment proceedings against him.

The speaker of the Parliament, Jacob Mudenda, read out a letter in which Mr. Mugabe said he was stepping down “with immediate effect” for “the welfare of the people of Zimbabwe and the need for a peaceful transfer of power.”

Mr. Mugabe, who controlled the nation by handing out the spoils of power to his allies and crushing dissent, had refused to step down even after being expelled on 19<sup>th</sup> November from ZANU-PF, the political party he had led for four decades.

Then on 21<sup>st</sup> November, party members introduced a motion of impeachment, invoking a constitutional process that had never before been tested.

### **National:**

#### **Delhi Enjoys Special Status, But It Is Not A State, Centre Tells Top Court**

The Centre on 21<sup>st</sup> November opposed the AAP government's submissions in the Supreme Court saying Delhi has been accorded "special status" among the union territories under the Constitution but that does not make it a state.

The Centre, which is locked in a legal battle with the Delhi government on the issue of who enjoys supremacy in administering the national capital territory, commenced its arguments before a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra.

Additional Solicitor General Maninder Singh, appearing for the Centre, referred to the constitutional provisions and said that Delhi enjoyed a "special status" among the union territories but this did not elevate the national capital to the status of a state as defined under the Constitution.

He told the bench, which also comprised Justices A K Sikri, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Ashok Bhushan, that Delhi government was empowered to take care of daily utilities of the national capital but the real administrative powers were vested with the Centre and the President.

### **Bilateral:**

#### **IMBAX in Meghalaya**

The week-long Army warfare exercise by India and Myanmar, began on 20<sup>st</sup> November at the Joint Warfare Centre at Umroi near Shillong in Meghalaya.

The exercise code-named India-Myanmar Bilateral Army Exercise (IMBAX) is aimed at building and promoting closer relations with armies of the neighbouring countries.

### **India-Russia sign pact**

India and Russia have agreed to implement the general declaration for visa free entry of the crew of chartered and scheduled flights between the two countries. A pact on the issue was signed recently by officials of the two countries

The agreement will facilitate visa-free entry, stay and exit of crew of aircraft of the designated airlines as well as other aircraft companies operating chartered and special flights in the respective territories on reciprocal basis.

### **Economy:**

#### **India, World Bank ink \$98 million loan pact for renewable energy**

India and the World Bank on 20<sup>th</sup> November signed a \$98 million loan pact, and a \$2 million grant agreement to help the country increase power generation capacity through cleaner, renewable energy sources.

The Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks Project will finance Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA), to provide sub-loans to states to invest in various solar parks. The solar parks will be mostly under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's (MNRE) Solar Park Scheme

The first two solar parks are in the Rewa and Mandasaur districts of Madhya Pradesh, with targeted installed capacities of 750 MW and 250 MW respectively. Other states where potential solar parks could be supported under this project are in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Haryana.

The government is committed to setting up an enabling environment for solar technology penetration in the country

The IREDA will utilise the funding under this project to develop the common infrastructure such as power pooling substations, intra-park transmission infrastructure and provide access to roads, water supply and drainage. While some states intend to provide a full range of infrastructure services to the selected private or public sector developers, others plan to provide only pooling stations to facilitate internal evacuation.

With about 331 GW of installed capacity, India's power system is among the largest in the world. Yet, the per capita electricity consumption is less than one-third of the global average. An estimated 300 million people are not connected to the national electrical grid, the statement said, adding that with a rapidly growing economy the need for reliable power is only going to grow.

The \$75 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a 5-year grace period, and a maturity of 19 years. The \$23 million loan from the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) has a 10-year grace period, and a maturity of 40 years. The \$2 million is an interest-free CTF grant.

### **ONGC Videsh to acquire 15% stake in Namibia block**

ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas investment arm of ONGC, will acquire stake in offshore Namibia block. A company statement said that OVL through ONGC Videsh Vankorneft Pte Ltd (OVVL) has signed definitive binding agreements with Tullow Namibia Ltd (Tullow), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tullow Oil plc, for acquiring 15 per cent participating interest in Namibia Petroleum Exploration License 0030 for Block 2012A and related agreements (licence) from Tullow's existing participating interest of 25 per cent in the licence.

Eco Oil and Gas Namibia (Pty) Ltd with 32.5 per cent participating interest, Azimuth Namibia Ltd with 32.5 per cent participating interest and National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (Pty) Ltd with 10 per cent participating interest are other partners in the licence, the statement added.

### **Environment**

#### **Russia reports radioactivity 1000 times above normal after claims of nuclear accident**

Russia's meteorological service said on 21<sup>st</sup> November it had measured pollution of a radioactive isotope at nearly 1,000 times normal levels in the Ural mountains, the first official Russian data supporting reports that a nuclear incident had taken place.

The data appears to back up a report by the French nuclear safety institute IRSN, which said on November 9 a cloud of radioactive pollution over Europe had indicated some kind of leak had taken place at a nuclear facility either in Russia or Kazakhstan in the last week of September. Neither Russia nor Kazakhstan has acknowledged any accident.

#### **Persons in news:**

**Quarraisha Abdool Karim:** Acclaimed South African Indian-origin AIDS researcher Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim appointed as a UNAIDS Special Ambassador for Adolescents and HIV. Professor Abdool Karim is one of the world's leading AIDS researchers and has made pioneering contributions to understanding the HIV epidemic among young people, especially among young women.