

November 5th news:

International:

Russia bans Canadians' entry in response to sanctions

Russia has banned the entry Canadian citizens to Russia in retaliation to Canada's new sanctions. Based on the principle of reciprocity, it was decided to ban entry to the Russian Federation of a number of Canadian individuals. On 3rd November Canada imposed sanctions against 30 Russian officials suspected of being linked to the prison death of Russian anti-corruption lawyer Sergei Magnitsky in 2009, who was jailed after alleging a massive tax fraud.

Colombia signs \$300m UN deal to fight cocaine production

Colombia has signed a 300 million US dollar agreement with the United Nations (UN) aimed at reducing the production of cocaine. The head of the UN's Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Yury Fedotov said, this historic agreement is a unique opportunity to turn the tide against Colombia's coca cultivation and help farmers embrace alternative development.

This initiative will provide compensation to farmers if they revert to producing safer crops, such as coffee and cacao. Colombia is ranked as one of the main drug-growing nations in the world by the UNODC.

Economy:

NITI Aayog sees poverty, corruption and terrorism free India by 2022

Government think tank NITI Aayog has envisaged a New India by 2022 which will be free from poverty, dirt, corruption, terrorism, casteism, and communalism.

According to New India @2022 document presented by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar at Conference of Governors last month, India will be in the top three economies of the world if it continues to grow at 8 per cent from now until 2047. It also envisions that we will achieve 'Kuposhan Mukh Bharat' by 2022.

The document visualises that government will be able to connect all villages with habitations over 500 (250 in Special Areas) with all-weather roads by 2019 under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). It further envisions that India will have 20 world class higher education institutions by 2022.

The document also visualises that all villages selected under Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) should attain model village status by 2022. It also says we should resolve to have Poverty Free India by 2022.

Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana:

The Plan aims to build an "Adarsh Gram" (Model village) which has adequate physical and institutional infrastructure, in which minimum needs of all sections of the society are fully met. The village which is

progressive and dynamic and its residents live in harmony. All the facilities necessary for dignified living should be available and the residents are enabled to utilise their potential to the fullest.

The plan is considered ambitious as it aimed to bring a number of development programs to the villages. Some of these programs are Bharat Nirman, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for rural roads, water supply, housing, electrification and other big-ticket schemes like [Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan](#), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, ICDS, sanitation. This program would be applicable to around 44,000 villages which had a scheduled castes population above 50% and so qualified for PMAGY.

Centre to provide Rs 700 crore for development of Maoist-affected districts of Chhattisgarh

The Centre will provide seven hundred crore rupees for the development of Maoist-affected districts of Chhattisgarh.

The funds will be provided in the next three years under Special Central Assistance scheme. A meeting, presided over by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, was held in New Delhi on 3rd November to review development works and security operations in Maoist-affected regions of the state.

During the meeting, it was decided that more emphasis should be given on finding effective ways to provide maximum benefits of road connectivity, telephone connectivity and other public welfare schemes to beneficiaries.

Persons in news:

Saad Hariri: In a surprise move, Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri on 4th November resigned from his post during a trip to Saudi Arabia. He was named Prime Minister in November last year, after previously holding the position between 2009 and 2011.