

November 8th news:

International:

UN calls on Myanmar to end excessive military force in Rakhine state

Strongly condemning the widespread violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state, which has led to the displacement of over 600,000 members of the country's minority Muslim Rohingya community, the United Nations Security Council has called on the Myanmar Government to end the use of excessive military force in the region.

In a statement read out by Sebastiano Cardi of Italy, the President of the Security Council for the month of November, the 15-member body also called on the Myanmar Government "to restore civilian administration and apply the rule of law, and to take immediate steps in accordance with the Government's obligations and commitments to respect human rights, including the rights of women, children, and persons belonging to vulnerable groups, without discrimination and regardless of ethnicity, religion, or citizenship status."

The Council also urged the Government to implement measures in line with its resolution 2106 (2013) to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual violence, and encouraged it to work with the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

The Council also expressed concern over severely limited humanitarian access to the affected parts of the region and demanded that the Government ensure immediate, safe and unhindered access to UN and other humanitarian actors, and ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel.

Also in the Statement, the Council commended the provision of humanitarian assistance and support for dialogue by Bangladesh as well as other regional countries and organizations; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to engage with the Myanmar through good offices.

Economy:

India to contribute \$100 million to UN development fund

India has pledged an additional 100 million US Dollar towards the UN partnership fund, significantly scaling up its support to sustainable development projects across the developing world. This contribution would be in addition to India's contribution of 10.582 million US dollar to various other UN programmes.

The 5 million US dollar, India contributed to the fund this year, 2 million US dollar would be utilised for reconstruction in Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda, which took a big hit from hurricanes.

Environment

Smog turns Delhi into poisonous gas chamber, IMA declares 'health emergency'

Delhi, and the national capital region (NCR) centred on it, came under a heavy blanket of smog on 7th November, with air quality reaching "severe" level. The situation is not expected to change for the next two days.

In a similar situation at the same time last year, multiple courts had passed several orders to control stubble burning in northern states and implementation of a **graded response action plan (GRAP)** to tackle high levels of pollution.

But, so far, authorities have failed in preventing stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana in winters, which intensifies air pollution in the Delhi NCR region.

According to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), air quality at the majority of the monitoring stations across Delhi and adjoining towns touched "severe" levels on 7th November.

Overall, the air quality index of Delhi on 7th November was 443 (Severe). Average levels of two deadliest components in air pollution—Particulate Matter (PM) 10 and PM 2.5—across Delhi NCR on 7th November was 418 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (over four times the safe limit) and 439 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (over seven times the safe limit) respectively.

The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA), which is tasked with implementation of GRAP, also met and asked governments of Delhi and adjoining states to take a series of immediate steps to control pollution.

EPCA also directed immediate measures like closing of brick kilns, stone crushers, intensification of public transport service, increasing frequency of service of Delhi Metro, intensification of mechanized road sweeping and sprinkling of water, continuation of the ban on use of generator sets in Delhi, immediate enhancement of parking fee by four times, ban on use of coal and firewood in hotels and eateries and others.

India To Play Constructive Role In Fighting Climate Change: Harsh Vardhan

India considers climate change a "major threat" and will play a "constructive" role in combating it, Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan on 7th November said at the UN climate summit which kicked off in Bonn, Germany, on 7th November under the shadow of the recent US pullout from the historic Paris Agreement.

Noting that solving the "crisis" of climate change is not a question of politics but a moral obligation, Mr Vardhan said although India's per capita emissions are only one-third of the global average, and its contribution to global stock of carbon dioxide is less than three per cent, it has still moved ahead with implementation of pathbreaking initiatives.

On the first day of the summit, India also called for early time-bound ratification of second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol by developed countries to ensure the highest possible mitigation efforts under the UN Convention by all countries.

The minister said India has been ambitious in its climate change actions and expects other countries to be ambitious based on their historical responsibility. He said contributions of citizens, sustainable lifestyles and climate justice provides an alternative means to address climate change which must be rigorously pursued.

The 23rd meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) began in Bonn today. After the inauguration of the India pavilion at the summit, Mr Vardhan said countries have gathered at Conference of Parties (COP-23) in Bonn to move forward and work toward developing guidelines for efficient implementation of the Paris Agreement under the convention.

The objective of the Paris Agreement, adopted on December 12, 2015, by 195 parties to the UNFCCC is to prevent an increase in global average temperature and keep it well below 2 degree Celsius.

India Pavilion Launched at COP 23 in Germany: The India Pavilion at Conference of Parties (COP) 23 was inaugurated by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan at Bonn in Germany. India's theme for COP 23 is "Conserving Now, Preserving Future" The Minister is leading the Indian delegation, which is participating in the 23rd to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) being held at the Bonn, Germany from November 6-17, 2017.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** is an international environmental treaty adopted on 9 May 1992 and opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992. It then entered into force on 21 March 1994, after a sufficient number of countries had ratified it. The UNFCCC objective is to "stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system". The framework sets non binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions for individual countries and contains no enforcement mechanisms. Instead, the framework outlines how specific international treaties (called "protocols" or "Agreements") may be negotiated to specify further action towards the objective of the UNFCCC.

Science and Technology

India successfully tests its first nuclear-capable cruise missile

India on 7th November successfully flight-tested its indigenous Nirbhay (the fearless) land-attack cruise missile, which can deliver nuclear warheads to a strike range of 1,000-km, after a string of failures since March 2013.

The development is significant because the armed forces have long been demanding nuclear land-attack cruise missiles (LACMs), with ranges over 1,000-km and versatile enough to be fired from land, air and sea.

Often brandished as India's answer to the famed American Tomahawk missiles, as also an effective counter to Pakistan's Babur LACM, the Nirbhay had been in the making for a decade without much success till now.

The sub-sonic missile, designed to carry a 300-kg nuclear warhead, had failed during its first test in March 2013. Though the second test in October 2014 was a partial success, the third and fourth tests in October 2015 and December 2016 also flopped, leading to talk that the project may have to be scrapped.

What are Cruise Missiles.?

A **cruise missile** is a guided missile used against terrestrial targets that remains in the atmosphere and flies the major portion of its flight path at approximately constant speed. Cruise missiles are designed to deliver a large warhead over long distances with high precision. Modern cruise missiles are capable of travelling at supersonic or high subsonic speeds, are self-navigating, and are able to fly on a non-ballistic, extremely low-altitude trajectory.

Sports:

India triumph in series against New Zealand

India beat New Zealand by six runs in the Thiruvananthapuram T20 to win the three-match series 2-1. In the series, first match was win by India and the second one by New Zealand. Jasprit Bumrah was declared as the Man of the Match and also Man of the series