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1. Pakistan to Participate in Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Meeting in India

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry announced that Musadik Malik, one of Pakistan's senior ministers, will participate in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting scheduled to be held in India next week.

i. India had already invited Pakistan to participate in the meeting scheduled to take place in New Delhi from November 20 to 22. In response to the invitation, the Pakistani minister is set to attend the meeting.

ii. The last visit by a Pakistani minister to India was in 2023, when Bilawal Bhutto, the then Foreign Minister of Pakistan, visited the country. The present visit by a Pakistani minister is being viewed as an indication of Pakistan's willingness to ease tensions following last year's Pahalgam terror attack and subsequent military confrontation. It may also pave the way for India's participation in the SCO Summit to be hosted by Pakistan next year.

iii. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, headquartered in China, comprises China, India, Russia, Belarus, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The SCO Civilisation Dialogue Meeting, which discusses issues relating to civilisational and cultural understanding among member countries, will be held in New Delhi from November 20 to 22.

2. H5N1 Bird Flu Confirmed at Poultry Farm in Cuddalore

- An outbreak of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of bird flu has been confirmed at a poultry farm in Kattiyankuppam village in Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu.
- Following the confirmation, approximately 40,000 chickens were culled at the affected poultry farms and in the surrounding areas.

3. A historic trilateral meeting involving US President Donald Trump, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to take place in Shenzhen, China, on Thursday (November 19).

i. The White House has confirmed that the meeting has been planned alongside the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit. This would be the first time that the leaders of the world's three major nuclear powers have met together for discussions.

ii. The meeting is taking place at a particularly complicated juncture in global geopolitics. White House spokesperson Olivia Wales stated that Trump is expected to discuss major issues, including nuclear disarmament and the US-Israeli war against Iran.

iii. The last nuclear arms control agreement between the United States and Russia, known as the 'New START Treaty', expired in February this year. Trump has been advocating a new trilateral nuclear arms control agreement that would also include China. However, China has been reluctant to participate in such negotiations, arguing that it possesses only around 600 nuclear weapons, compared with more than 5,000 each held by the United States and Russia.

iv. Furthermore, China's dissatisfaction has reportedly increased over Trump's proposal to discuss nuclear disarmament during the APEC Summit, which is primarily focused on trade and commerce.

- China intends to use the APEC Summit, which brings together 21 major economies, as a platform to showcase its technological and economic progress. In this context, international political observers believe that the trilateral meeting could overshadow the importance of the APEC Summit.

v. Historical Significance of the Meeting:

- The first-ever meeting of the three leaders on a common platform has generated considerable international interest and expectations.
- The proposed meeting is being compared with the historic Yalta Conference held

in 1945. However, Dmitry Peskov, spokesperson for the Russian President's Kremlin office, has rejected such comparisons.

- He stated that any decisions reached at the Shenzhen meeting cannot be imposed on other countries and that the global order should be based on mutual respect.

4. Young cricket sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi has created a record by being appointed captain of the Bihar state T20 cricket team at the age of 15.

i. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) organises the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 cricket tournament. In a match between Bihar and Saurashtra held in Indore, Suryavanshi was appointed captain of the Bihar team.

ii. With this appointment, he has set a record as the youngest person to be appointed captain of a cricket team.

- Previously, Croatia's Zak Vukusic held the record, having been appointed captain at the age of 17 years and 311 days on August 7, 2025.

5. Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is on a two-day visit to Egypt.

During the visit, he will hold discussions with Egyptian officials on strengthening bilateral relations between India and Egypt in various sectors, including trade, investment and industrial development.

i. During 2025–26, India's exports to Egypt were valued at ₹36,478 crore (US$3.87 billion), while imports from Egypt stood at ₹24,507 crore (US$2.60 billion).

6. Prime Minister to Launch 246 Tribal Welfare Projects Worth ₹3,000 Crore on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas

On the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (Tribal Pride Day), Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch 246 tribal welfare projects worth approximately ₹3,000 crore.

i. The 151st birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, a freedom fighter and tribal leader, will

be celebrated on Sunday (November 15).

ii. Since 2021, Birsa Munda's birth anniversary has been observed as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.

This year, the Prime Minister will participate virtually in the main celebration being held in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra.

- He will inaugurate 246 welfare projects focusing on tribal education, healthcare, livelihood opportunities and social infrastructure.

7. India Votes in Favour of UN Resolution on Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources in Occupied Palestinian and Syrian Territories

India voted in favour of a draft United Nations resolution affirming the permanent rights of the people of Palestine and Syria over natural resources in territories occupied by Israel.

i. The resolution also calls upon Israel to stop exploiting and causing damage to natural resources in the occupied territories.

ii. The draft resolution was introduced by Uruguay in the 193-member UN General Assembly under the title:

iii. 'Permanent Sovereignty of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab Population in the Occupied Syrian Golan over Their Natural Resources.'

iv. 150 Countries Support the Resolution:

- The resolution aims to protect the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine and Syria over natural resources, including land, water and energy resources, in territories occupied by Israel.
- A vote was conducted on the resolution, with 150 countries, including India, voting in favour.
- Seven countries, including Israel and the United States, voted against the resolution, while 11 countries abstained from voting.

- The resolution calls upon Israel to cease all activities involving the exploitation, damage, loss or endangerment of natural resources in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.