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International & National News

India provides a \$250 mn Line of Credit to Kenya

**Context**

- India extended a **\$250 million Line of Credit** for the modernization of agriculture in Kenya.
- Both sides will carry out **joint military exercises** and will collaborate on **counter-terror projects**.

Think:

Have a look at the Bordering countries of Kenya

Nov. services PMI signals slowdown

Context

- India's services sector momentum faltered to a one-year low in November, as per the seasonally adjusted **S&P Global India Services Business Activity Index**
- Taken together with the manufacturing **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)**, November marked the weakest rise in private sector activity in the country in a year.

About Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

- Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an **economic indicator**, which is derived after monthly surveys of different companies.
- It measures activity at the purchasing or input stage.
- In this sense, it is very different from industrial production which is indicative of actual production.
- E.g., **the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** measures output.
- There are two types of PMI — **Manufacturing PMI and Services PMI**.
- The index shows trends in both the manufacturing and services sectors.
- **PMI does not capture informal sector activity.**

114 seats, migrant quota cleared for J&K Assembly

Context

The Lok Sabha passed the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, and the **Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, the former seeking to reserve seats for "**Kashmiri migrants**, people displaced from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir [PoK] and Scheduled Tribes" in the yet-to-be constituted **114-seat J&K Assembly**.

Key points

- The **reservation of seats for Kashmiri migrants**, who were displaced from their own homes in the 1990s, will ensure that the voice of the community is heard "loud and clear in the J&K



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Assembly”.

- The **Reorganisation Bill** increases the total number of seats in the **J&K Assembly** from **107 to 114**, with the reservation of nine seats for the **Scheduled Tribes** for the first time.
- It also empowers the **Lieutenant-Governor to nominate three members in the Assembly** — two from the Kashmiri migrant community including one woman, and the third member being a representative of people from PoK who took refuge in India following the wars with Pakistan in **1947, 1965 and 1971**.

India reminds Myanmar to return to ‘federal democracy’

Context

As conflict intensifies between armed resistance groups and the Myanmar military in the **Chin, Shan and Sagaing provinces**, India reminds Myanmar to return to the path of federal democracy.

Key points

- India and Myanmar held discussions on a wide range of issues covering the situation along **the border, security, trade, commerce, connectivity, status of bilateral development projects** in Myanmar and concerns related to transnational crimes.
- India reiterated its support to Myanmar for a **transition towards a federal democracy**
- India continued to support people-centric socio-economic developmental projects, including connectivity projects and projects under the **Rakhine State Development Programme and Border Area Development Programme** for the benefit of the people of Myanmar

Garba dance of Gujarat makes it to UNESCO list



Context

Gujarat’s traditional dance form ‘Garba’ was included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**.

Key points

- The popular dance form is the **15th cultural item** from India to make it to the UNESCO list.
- **Kolkata’s Durga Puja** was the last one added two years ago.
- The inclusion has been made under the provisions of the **2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage**.
- The international cultural body described the ‘Garba’ as a ritualistic and devotional dance performed in India.

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