


- For the first time since 2011, USA hosted annual APEC summit.
  - Theme: **Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All.**
- About APEC**
  - Formed in 1989 with 12 members. Now, it has 21 members. (refer image)
  - Grouping of economies around Pacific Ocean aiming to **promote trade, investment, and economic development** in region.
  - Accounts for nearly **62% of global GDP, half of global trade** and covers **38% of global population.**
  - Operates on basis of **non-binding commitments** with decisions reached by consensus.
  - India is an **observer since 2011.**
- Why is India not a member of APEC?**
  - Reservations about India's "**protectionist instincts**", and its **unsatisfactory records on economic reforms** and WTO engagement.
  - Membership in APEC group froze in 1997.
  - India's **lack of a Pacific coastline** has worked against its membership.
- Significance of APEC for India**
  - Reducing **trade barriers**, promoting **free flow of goods, services and capital** among APEC economies.
  - Improve **physical infrastructure linkages, people mobility and institutional ties** across Asia-Pacific.
  - Boost India's exports**, attract investment and support initiatives like Make in India. Facilitate
  - "**technology transfer**" in IT, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy etc.



## National Press Day was organized with theme "Media in the Era of Artificial Intelligence"

- Celebrated on **November 16** every year, National Press Day is symbolic of a **free and responsible press in India.**
  - It commemorates the establishment of **Press Council of India**, which acts as a **regulatory body for news media.**
- Opportunities from AI use in media**
  - Big data journalism** for identifying patterns and frame informed public opinion.
  - Focus on core journalism** due to automation of back-office tasks.
  - Creation of **personalized content.**
- Challenges faced by media due to use of AI**
  - Credibility issues** due to inaccuracies.
  - Amplification of misinformation** through automated algorithms.
  - Limiting diverse perspective** through creation of **echo chambers** (where one experiences a biased, tailored media experience reinforcing their existing biases).
  - Micro targeting of information to **influence democratic process.**
  - Violation of Intellectual Property Rights** like copyright.
  - Threats to media integrity** due to data biases in generative AI models.
- Way forward**
  - Ensuring that AI models **do not adopt biases** from their training data. **Collective action** to uphold journalistic integrity and ensure responsible AI use. **Ethical human oversight** on AI generated content.
  - Increased focus on **fact checking and source verification.**



### Press Council of India

**Genesis:** First set up in 1966 under Indian Press Council Act, 1965.

- Re-established in 1979 under Press Council Act, 1978.

**About:** Statutory quasi-judicial autonomous authority.

**Objective:** Preserve freedom of press by maintaining and improving standards of newspapers and news agencies in India.

**Composition:** Chairman and 28 members.

**Functions:**

- Build up a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists.
- Review any developments likely to restrict flow of news.

## banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)

- **The risk weights on banks'** unsecured personal loans, consumer durable loans, credit cards and NBFCs' unsecured personal and consumer durables loans have increased.
- The increased risk weight is applicable **to outstanding as well as fresh loans.**
- RBI has exempted **microfinance loans by NBFCs** from the risk-weight increase.
  - ⊖ **Risk weight** refers to the capital banks keep aside as provisioning to cover any loan defaults.
- The need for the measure is **rapid growth in unsecured loans.****Impact of**
- **the measure**
  - ⊖ **Increases in the cost of borrowing** for consumers.
  - ⊖ RBI is indirectly telling banks to **slow unsecured loans and credit cards.**
  - ⊖ This will raise the **capital requirements of banks and NBFCs**, which will increase their cost of capital. In line
  - ⊖ with **basel norms.**
- **About basel norms**
  - ⊖ These are the **international banking regulations** issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. The Basel
  - ⊖ Committee has produced **three norms for Banking to tackle various risks faced by banks.**
  - ⊖ **RBI began implementing Basel-I** in 1992 and **Basel-II** in 2009. RBI also issued **guidelines on implementing Basel-III in a phased manner.**

## Indian researchers detect X-ray polarization for the first time from a black hole outside the Milky Way

- Radiations are emitted from the vicinity of a **blackhole located in the Large Magellanic Cloud-X-3 (LMC X3)** and located 200,000 light years away from the Earth.
  - ⊖ **The Magellanic Clouds** are two irregular dwarf satellite galaxies orbiting our Milky Way galaxy in the southern celestial hemisphere.
  - ⊖ The two galaxies are **large magellanic clouds and small magellanic clouds.**
- Researchers studied LMC X-3 using the **Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE), the Neutron Star Interior Composition Explorer (NICER) Mission, and Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array (NuSTAR).**
  - ⊖ **IXPE was the first mission** of NASA to study the polarization of X-rays from celestial objects.
  - ⊖ **ISRO's upcoming X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) mission** will be the second satellite with this capability.
- Researchers used X-ray polarimetry to reveal that **X-ray emissions from this black hole were polarised in nature**, "which means it changes the degree and angle".
- **About X-ray polarimetry:**
  - ⊖ **It is a unique observational technique** to identify where radiation comes from near blackholes.
  - ⊖ It helps in studying the **origin of cosmic rays** in the universe, the **nature of black holes**, and the **interaction of matter** with the highest physically possible magnetic fields.

## Nepal bans social media app TikTok citing disruption to social harmony

- Earlier, TikTok was **banned in India, Australia, EU, Belgium** etc.
- **Social media** is a **collective term for websites and applications** like Instagram, WhatsApp, TikTok, Twitter that focus on **communication, content-sharing and collaboration.**
  - ⊖ At the beginning of 2023, there were **398 million social media users in India.**
  - ⊖ As per MeitY, India witnessed **13.91 Lakh cybersecurity incidents in 2022.**
- **Social media cybercrime are classified into**
  - ⊖ **Cybercrimes targeting social media users:** Privacy-violating crimes, account hijacking etc.
  - ⊖ **Cybercrimes facilitated by social media platforms:** Phishing, scams, fake profiles, cyber-harassment etc.
  - ⊖ **Cybercrimes advertised on social media platforms:** Advertising for stolen credit cards, video tutorials of unlawful acts, etc.
- **Reasons for Social Media's Vulnerability to Cybercrimes**
  - ⊖ **Cybercriminals use internal information** for social engineering attacks like data theft, etc.
  - ⊖ **Data Aggregation through quizzes** provides cybercriminals with information to achieve unauthorized access to respondents' accounts.
  - ⊖ **Unsecured Portable Devices like mobiles** have risk of information being stolen from lost devices.
  - ⊖ **Popularity and high usage.** On an average, Indian spends 194 minutes daily on social media platforms.
- **Measures to reduce Social Media Cyber-risks:** Know how to report, block, and filter content; Turn off geo-location; Use private Internet connection, etc.

### India's Initiatives to reduce social media cybercrime

- **Online cybercrime reporting portal** to enable complainants to report complaints pertaining to Child Sexual Abuse Material.
- **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** to handle issues related to cybercrime in comprehensive and coordinated manner.

