

Around The WORLD

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Chinese surveillance cameras banned

In order to reduce potential security risks, the government on Nov 24, 2022, directed its departments to put a definite halt on the installation of China-made security cameras in sensitive areas. The move has been made keeping in mind the fact that Chinese companies, especially Hikvision and Dahua, are the biggest suppliers of CCTV cameras deployed by the British administration, and are believed to have been involved in aiding human rights abuses against Uyghurs in Xinjiang. Both the companies, however, have denied the allegations.



PAKISTAN

General Asim Munir elected as new army chief

The nation's erstwhile spy chief, General Asim Munir, on Nov 29, 2022, took charge as the new army chief, replacing General Qamar Javed Bajwa, who served two consecutive terms in the office. With his election, General Munir has become the first army chief in the history of the nation to have headed both of its powerful intelligence agencies, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Military Intelligence (MI). His stint in the former, however, lasted for only 8 months, the shortest ever.

FRANCE

Baguettes acquire UNESCO cultural heritage status

The French baguette has been added to UNESCO's cultural heritage list. Though around six billion baguettes are baked in the nation every year, its popularity was declining. Its inclusion thus acts as a ray of hope for the nation's traditional bakers and as a celebration of the French way of life, because "there's nothing more quintessentially French than the baguette itself."



USA

Monkeypox rechristened as mpox by WHO

The WHO has renamed monkeypox to 'mpox', after having received multiple requests to do the same. The move came in response to the racist language that was used online and in other settings when the outbreak of monkeypox spread rapidly around the world earlier in May. Though both the names will continue to be used for the next one year or so, the original one will be completely discarded post that.



EQUATORIAL GUINEA

President Teodoro Obiang wins sixth term

Obiang Mbasogo, the world's longest-serving president, has been re-elected to the president's office for the sixth time, extending his 43-year rule. Having received 94.9% votes, Obiang defeated Andres Esono and Buenaventura, the two opposing candidates. The nation has only had two presidents since independence, Obiang being one of them.



INDIA

PSLV rocket launches nine satellites

In a bid to monitor the oceans, ISRO, in partnership with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, launched its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle rocket, with a one-ton EOS-6 and eight nanosatellites aboard. Having blasted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, it is said to be ISRO's final space mission for 2022. The mission also acts as a follow up to OceanSat-1 and OceanSat-2 launched in 1999 and 2009 respectively.



AUSTRALIA

Endangered status for Great Barrier Reef

UN made its plans to add the Great Barrier Reef to the list of endangered UNESCO World Heritage Sites public, citing Australia's inadequate attempts at protecting it. The nation, however, has opposed the move, for its implementation would remove it from the World Heritage List altogether. To be certain, the government's reportedly in serious talks with the conservation experts at UNESCO.

News Flash

► **Russia:** The nation won't be supplying oil to countries imposing anti-market price cap ► **Iraq:** ISIS Leader Abu Hasan al-Hashimi al-Qurashi killed in Free Syrian Army operation; Abu al-Hussein al-Husseini al-Qurashi appointed as the new leader