

CURRENT AFFAIRS



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MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER : 2024



Near Riddhi-Siddhi Circle, Gopalpura Bypass, Jaipur

1- RAJASTHAN AFFAIRS

Rajasthan Economic Revival Task Force formed

- It was formed on 14 October 2024.
- Objective: To develop finance, economic management, infrastructure, agriculture and developmental sectors etc. in Rajasthan.
- Rajasthan Economic Revival Task Force (RERTF) has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister.
- An order in this regard has been issued in compliance with the State Budget 2024-25 announcement.
- Vice Chairman of the Task Force: Deputy Chief Minister (Finance)
- Member Secretary: Secretary Finance (Budget)

Task Force Members (11 members)

1. Deputy Chief Minister (Transport and Higher Education)
 2. Minister of Industry and Commerce
 3. Minister of Energy
 4. Minister of Agriculture
 5. Chief Secretary
 6. Additional Chief Secretary Finance
 7. Additional Chief Secretary Energy
 8. Additional Chief Secretary Water Resources
 9. Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce
 10. Principal Secretary Agriculture and Horticulture
 11. Secretary Planning
- Nominated members: 5 (subject experts from finance, economic management, infrastructure, agriculture and developmental sectors)
 - The term of this task force will be till March 31, 2028.
 - It shall meet at least once a year.
 - Its administrative department will be the Finance Department.
 - The task force will make recommendations on subjects such as identification of key economic sectors, policy formulation and implementation, skill development and education, infrastructure development, promotion of innovation and technology, promotion of MSMEs and startups, tourism and cultural heritage, promotion of green growth and economic and employment growth of the state.

Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha By-Election-2024 announced

- The programme of by-election on 7 vacant seats in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly was announced by the Election Commission of India on 16 October 2024.
- Polling for these seven seats will be held on November 13 and counting of votes will take place on November 23.

- In Rajasthan, by-elections will be held in Jhunjhunu, Ramgarh (Alwar), Dausa, Salumbar (Udaipur), Chaurasi (Dungarpur), Khinvsar (Nagaur) and Deoli Uniara (Tonk).
- With the announcement of by-elections, the model code of conduct has come into force in the respective revenue districts.
- The area of influence of the code of conduct will be the entire Dausa and Dungarpur districts and the reconstituted revenue districts of Alwar, Jhunjhunu, Tonk, Nagaur and Salumbar.
- **Chief Electoral Officer of Rajasthan:** Shri Naveen Mahajan
- **Rajasthan State Election Commissioner (State Election Commission):** Shri Madhukar Gupta
- **Note:** The State Election Commission conducts elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Bodies.
- The Election Commission of India is responsible for conducting elections to the President, Vice President, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Vidhan Sabha, Legislative Council.

5 countries to become country partners for Rising Rajasthan Summit

- Denmark, Japan, South Korea, Turkey and Australia will join the summit as country partners.
- All these countries have given consent to the state government in this regard.

Rising Rajasthan Tourism Pre-Summit

- In the Rising Rajasthan Summit, 142 MoUs worth Rs 14,000 crore have been signed in the tourism sector.
- Rajasthan Tourism Development Board will be constituted in the state and Rajasthan Tourism Infrastructure and Capacity Building Fund will be created.
- Apart from this, the minimum investment limit for tourism has been reduced from Rs 50 crore to Rs 10 crore for incentives under the Standard Services Package in RIPS-2024.

Rising Rajasthan Urban Sector Pre-Investment Summit

- It was held on 14 October 2024 in Jaipur.
- It was organized by the Urban Development Department of the state.
- Investment agreements worth more than Rs 76,400 crore were signed by the investors with the state government in this summit.
- Minister of Urban Development: Shri Jhabar Singh Kharra

Rising Rajasthan Pre-Summit of Mines and Petroleum Sector Investment

- It will be organized in Jaipur on 8 November 2024.
- In the pre-summit of the Rising Rajasthan Investment Summit of the mines and petroleum sector, MoUs will be signed for investment proposals worth more than Rs 50 thousand crore.
- The mining sector of the state is growing rapidly in terms of investment, employment and revenue.
- Principal Secretary to Government of Mines: Shri T. Ravikant

'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit 2024

- Event: 9-11 December 2024 in Jaipur.
- It will be inaugurated on December 9, by Prime Minister Modi.
- Its Theme is "REPLETE, RESPONSIBLE, READY".
- **Target:** To make Rajasthan a \$350 billion economy in the next 5 years and to push the 'Developed Rajasthan' Action Plan.
- The event is being organized under the aegis of the Government of Rajasthan in collaboration with the Department of Industries and Commerce, Bureau of Investment Promotion (BIP) and Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO).
- Its nodal department is the Bureau of Investment Promotion (BIP).
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is the summit partner.
- The knowledge partner of this investment summit is PWC India.

Chief Minister's visit to Germany

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma during his visit to Europe invited Germany to become a partner country for the Investment Summit 2024.
- A special investment zone for German investors was offered to be set up in Neemrana (Rajasthan) on the lines of Japanese Investment Zone.
- The CM also proposed to set up a sister partnership between the state of Bavaria in Germany and Rajasthan, with special emphasis on renewable energy.

Investor Roadshows and MoUs held in Germany

- A high-level delegation of the Government of Rajasthan led by Chief Minister Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma participated in the 'Rising Rajasthan' Investor Road Show on 16 October 2024 in Munich during his visit to Germany.
- In this investor roadshow, the Government of Rajasthan signed MoUs with several big German companies like Albatross Projects, Flixbus, Partex NV, Valley Technics GmbH, and Ingo Schmitz.
- These companies work in areas such as defense mobility, artificial intelligence, development.

Flixbus signs MoU with state government

- Travel tech company Flixbus signed an MoU with the Rajasthan government on 16 October 2024 during Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma's roadshow in Germany for the Rising Global Investment Summit.
- Under this, the state government and Flixbus will improve the infrastructure of bus transportation.
- CEO of Flixbus: Andre Schwammelen

Rajasthan signs Rs 3 lakh crore MoU with UAE in renewable energy sector



- The MoU in the field of renewable energy in Rajasthan was signed on 22 October 2024 in the presence of Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and UAE Investment Minister Mohammad Hassan Al Surwaidi.
- Under this MoU, there will be an investment of Rs 3 lakh crore in the renewable energy sector in the state.
- This investment will be made for setting up a 60 GW solar wind and hybrid project in the western districts of Rajasthan.
- The MoU was signed by UAE Minister of Investment Mohammed Hassan Al Suwaidi and Principal Secretary, Department of Industries Ajitabh Sharma.
- Under this, the latest technology of renewable energy will be used in the projects.
- This will meet the energy needs of the State.
- Note: The central government has set a target of generating 500 GW of solar power in the country.

'Capacity Building for Design and Entrepreneurship' Project

- In Rajasthan, Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur has been awarded the 'Capacity Building for Design and Entrepreneurship Project' for the first time.
- The project was launched on 16 October 2024.
- This project has been awarded by the Ministry of Education, Government of India under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Program for 5 years.
- In the first phase of this project, 32 faculties out of 287 teaching faculty have been included.

- **Objective:** To connect students and faculty members to new dimensions of education, develop knowledge, skills and abilities of teaching faculty.
- On this project, both students and faculty will work together with the 'Learning by Doing' method.
- In this process, courses and modules of entrepreneurship, innovation design thinking will be developed for faculty and students.

Development Promotion and Control Regulation

- The Rajasthan government has implemented the Development Promotion and Control Regulations in the state from 14 October 2024.
- The Urban Development Department of Rajasthan has issued a notification in this regard.
- This has eliminated the long process of land use change for the people.
- Under this, approval will be obtained at the local level under the prescribed criteria.
- This will also ease the process of land conversion and allotment for community facility, education-medical facilities in cities.
- It will be easier to implement master plans, planned development and provide necessary facilities in cities.
- With the implementation of this regulation, the body, development authority, urban development trust will also not need to send the case to the state government.

Draft of Rajasthan Clean Energy Policy 2024

- The Rajasthan government will bring a single policy in place of separate policies for renewable energy (solar, wind, pump storage) sector.
- For this, a draft 'Rajasthan Clean Energy Policy 2024' has been prepared.
- In this, the target of renewable energy (cheap electricity) generation has been increased from 90,000 MW to 1.25 lakh MW.
- Under this, a target of more than Rs 5 lakh crore investment has been set in the state.
- It will be mandatory for the company investing in renewable energy plants to supply some part of the cheap electricity to the discoms.
- Under this, 2.5 hectares of land will be allotted instead of 3 hectares for 1 MW solar plant/hybrid project

Targets of the Policy (in MW)

Renewable Energy	Current	Proposed
Solar	65000	80000
Wind & Hybrid	15000	20000

Draft of Rajasthan Textile and Apparel Policy - 2024 released

- For the first time in Rajasthan, a separate policy will be implemented for the textile industry.

- The Rajasthan government released the draft of Rajasthan Textile and Apparel Policy-2024 on 4 October 2024.
- In this, new provisions have been made to promote the textile industry.
- **Main objective:** Investment of Rs 15,000 crore in textile sector by 2029 and creating two lakh new jobs.
- The textile industry earlier received a minimum of 13% capital subsidy under RIPS-2022. Which has been increased to a minimum of 25%. This will lead to the establishment of new textile industries.
- Under this policy, 50% subsidy will be given on solar plant in new textile units.
- In this sector, the entrepreneur will get a grant of Rs 3,000 per month per worker on fulfilling certain conditions.
- The government has also made a provision in the policy to promote Common Facility Center (CFC).
 - If the large textile machines or training unit is beyond the capacity of an entrepreneur, then some units can develop a common facility center together, in which a provision of 50% or Rs 10 crore grant has also been made.
- There will be 100% exemption in stamp duty and registration for new industries.
- **Note:** The state government has included the textile and readymade industry of Bhilwara under one district-one product.

'Not Now' Campaign

- This campaign was started by the District Legal Services Authority Jaipur under the aegis of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority Jaipur from 24 October 2024 to prevent child marriage.
- Its theme – "Pehle Sapne Poore karo.....Phir Shadi par Vichar karo."
- This campaign is based on the concept of preventing evil practices like child marriage and to make child marriage-free cities and villages.
- Under this, village sarpanches, district and block education officers, senior citizens, panches, ward members, principals, paralegal volunteers will be associated with the campaign.

Capacity Building Programme on 'Human Rights'

- The program will be organized under the joint aegis of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Rajasthan Police.
- A two-day capacity building programme for police officers on subjects related to human rights will be held on 25-26 October 2024 at the Rajasthan Police Academy, Jaipur.
- It was attended by 40 officers of IG, DIG and SP level.
- In this, officers will be made aware on contemporary issues related to human rights in separate sessions.

'Sashakt Baran Pragati Ko Shakti' campaign

- Under this, special camps are being organized at all block levels in Baran district from October 16 to October 30, 2024.
- The objective of this initiative is to make Divyangjan aware about government schemes and services and bring them into the mainstream.
- Through this campaign, Divyangjan will be helped to achieve self-reliance, dignity and inclusiveness.
- Apart from this, ramps and other ancillary facilities have been constructed in the government offices of the district to ensure the convenience of the disabled.

A museum to be set up in Beawar to create awareness about Right to Information

- A museum will be set up in Narbadkheda in Beawar, Rajasthan to spread information about Right to Information (RTI) to the new generation.
- Its foundation stone will be laid on 19 October.
- The demand for the Right to Information Act was first raised in the country from Changgate in Beawar in Rajasthan, which started in 1996.
- The demand of Right to Information Act was led by Aruna Roy.
- In Rajasthan, the then CM Bhairon Singh Shekhawat implemented RTI in Panchayati Raj.
- Ashok Gehlot enacted RTI law when he became CM.
- In 2003, Vasundhara Raje, as a minister at the Centre, drafted the first RTI Act in the country.
- The Right to Information Act came into force in the country on October 12, 2005.

The Govardhan Parikrama Marg area will be developed as a religious tourism town

- The area falling in Rajasthan of Govardhan Parikrama Marg will be developed from the point of view of religious tourism.
- The state government will develop this area as a new center of crafts and architecture of Braj region.
- Under this proposed project, the area of Govardhan Parikrama falling in Rajasthan will be developed as a religious city.
- Facilities like Vedic University, Water Front Development, Green Belt Development, Theater related to Krishna Leela, Gaushala and bus terminal and parking for passengers will be developed here.
- In this project, a 100 meter high statue of Lord Krishna will be constructed.
- It also plans to develop 84 Kos Parikrama Marg and a new township for several religious places.
- The original forms of Apsara Kund and Naval Kund will be developed by the state government.
- The project will be completely eco-friendly and will be fully compliant with the National Green Tribunal (NGT) norms.

Godavan was born for the first time in the world through artificial insemination

- Godavan was born through artificial insemination at a breeding centre in Sudasari, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- India is the first country in the world to produce Godavan through artificial insemination.
- Godavan is included in the rare birds of the world and is the state bird of Rajasthan.
- At the Breeding Centre in Ramdevra, a male Godavan was trained for artificial mating and his sperm was injected into the female Godavan.
- Godavan's artificial insemination technology is inspired by Abu Dhabi-based International Fund for Houbara Conservation Foundation where such a successful test on the Tilor bird was conducted.
- In this context, Indian scientists received training on this technique.

First Phase of PKC-ERCP

- The first phase of Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (PKC-ERCP) will be undertaken under the Navnera-Galwa-Bisalpur-Isarda Link Project.
- Under this, a canal system will be constructed of 200 km length and tunnel 2.6 km length.
- In the first phase, a barrage and Navnera pump house will be constructed in Ramgarh-Mahalpur and water will reach Bisalpur-Isarda dam.
- There is a plan to bring Chambal water to Bisalpur and Isarda dam by the year 2028.

Importance of PKC-ERCP(For RAS Mains 2025)

- The water storage area and ground water level will increase.
- Increase in agricultural production which will increase the income of farmers.
- The availability of drinking water will be ensured.
- Flood and drought situation will be reduced in 10 districts (newly formed 17 districts) of Rajasthan.
- Along with the availability of water to industries, the industrial area will expand.

Rajasthan to present green budget from 2025

- Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari said that Rajasthan will present a separate green budget from next year.
- This will be done to promote environmental protection.
- Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Chief of Forest Force) of Forest Department: Arijit Banerjee

'Ambedkar International Scholarship Scheme'

- The scheme has been in the news due to the recommendation of expanding the scope of beneficiaries and relaunch.
- Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Chair was established by the Rajasthan Government in the year 2007 for Dalit and tribal students at Mundla in Jamwaramgarh (Jaipur).

- The scheme was launched in 2017 through this Peeth for 5 Dalit students every year in Rajasthan to pursue research in foreign universities.
- Under this scheme, there is a provision of grant of Rs 25 lakh in three years.

Eligibility for Scholarships

- Students belonging to Scheduled Caste category native to Rajasthan.
- Age Limit: 35 years.
- The annual income of the family is six lakhs.
- Post Graduate in any one of the subjects related to Law, Sociology, Public Administration, Economics, Political Science and Anthropology with 55% marks.

Jaipur becomes first city in the country to have 5 safaris



CM inaugurated Tiger Safari, became the first city in the country to have 4 safaris

- Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma inaugurated the Tiger Safari at Nahargarh Biological Park Jaipur on 7 October 2024.
- Jaipur became the first city in the country to have 5 safaris for tourists. There are 2 leopard, 1 elephant and 1 lion safari and 1 tiger safari.
- This is the first tiger safari of Rajasthan, which has been started in the zoo.
- In Rajasthan, 3 National Parks, 26 Sanctuaries, 36 Conservation Reserves and 4 Biological Parks have been developed.
- This safari has been prepared at a cost of 4.5 crores.
- Wildlife Week is being celebrated in Rajasthan from October 2 to October 8.
- Note: 2 new parks have been developed by Jaipur Development Authority in Jaipur district.
- Nagar Forest - Zerota
- Bio-Diversity Park - Newta
- Minister of State for Forest and Environment of Rajasthan: Shri Sanjay Sharma
- In this biological park, 2 tiger cubs were named, in which the male cub is named Bhima and the female cub is named Skandahi.
- Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary is spread over 5240 hectares, out of which Nahargarh Biological Park has been developed in 720 hectares.

State's first pumped storage project

- This project will be set up in Shahabad block of Baran.
- It is sold by Greenco Energy Pvt. Ltd.
- 17 such projects will be set up in Rajasthan. They will have the capacity to generate 20 thousand mega watts of electricity.
- Shahabad block of Baran is a rare biodiversity deep forest of Rajasthan spread over 19 thousand hectares.
- It was declared a conservation reserve in 2021.

Rajasthan's first Crocodile Park to come up in Kota

- Rajasthan's first crocodile park will be built on forest land in Kota's Deoli Arab for the conservation of crocodiles.
- Crocodile Park will be developed on 2.5 hectares of land near Smriti Van on Deoli Arabia.
- A view point will also be made here for the visitors in this Crocodile Park.
- Note: A large number of crocodiles are found in Raipura drain including Chambal, Chandloi, Kishorepura pond in Kota.

Features of Kota's Deoli Arab Smriti Van

- Area: Spread over 25.38 hectares
- Budget: Rs 13.55 crore
- Crocodile Park in 2.5 hectares
- 6400 Trees and Plants
- 351m Pond sail
- 1700m Runway Path

Jaipur will become an iconic destination to promote tourism



- Jaipur's Parkota (World Heritage Parkota Site), Jal Mahal and Amer will be developed as Iconic Tourist Destinations.
- These destinations will be developed in 18 months at a cost of 250 crores.
- The amount will be given to the tourism department under the Central Government's Special Assistant to State for Capital Investment – Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale.

Rajasthan's first agro processing complex

- Rajasthan's first agro processing complex will be developed in Jodhpur.
- This complex will be developed by a private institution. For this, an MoU has been signed between the Secretary of the State Agriculture Department Ranjan Vishal and the private company.

- For this project, there will be a capital investment of 100 crores and working capital investment of 50 crores.
- This complex made by private company will be based on Germany technology.
- In this, land will be made available to the private firm by the state government. On which the plant will be set up by the company by the year 2026.
- In this, fruits, vegetables and spices will be purchased from farmers and graded them, after which the parts of the product will be processed to make sub-products and they will be kept in cold storage, so that the quality of the product will not deteriorate for months.
- A packing house will be built to pack these products, where they will have special packing.
- Six different warehouses will be set up to complete all these tasks.

Mahabharata rock paintings found in Pratapgarh



- Rock paintings of Pandavas thousands of years old have been found in the forests of Kanthal in Pratapgarh.
- They have been discovered by environmentalist Mangal Mehta of the district.
- In these pictures, a woman (Draupadi) is walking ahead and 5 men (Pandavas) are walking behind her.
- This picture shows the exile of Pandavas.
- Rock paintings have been found in the caves here and some prehistoric symbols, sculptures, murals, tools, cupmarks, walled dwells, underground chambers, wells, stepwells, mortars of stone edge, Okhli ring stone, pieces of bizarre ceramics have also been found around them.

31 industrial hubs to be developed in Rajasthan for industrial development

- 31 new industrial hubs will be developed by the Rajasthan government for industrial development.
- More than 7,000 new industries will be developed in these areas. About 12 thousand acres of land has been identified for this.
- In addition to the petro zone, large zones like Meditech Medical Device Park, Global Technology and Application Center will be developed.
- Apart from this, automobile, heavy engineering, pharmaceutical, textile, garment, renewable energy products, e-waste, plastic waste, pharma-API,

defense manufacturing and other products will be set up in the new industrial areas.

- This will increase investment and employment in Rajasthan.

Major New Industrial Areas and Potential Industries

<p>Jaipur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kunjibiharipura, Jaipur: Automobile, Heavy Engineering, Furniture, Garment, Electrical. • Bichun, Jaipur: Renewable Products, Solar Modules, Electronics, Automobile, Stonebase. • Hukkan Nimodia, Jaipur: Garments, apparel park, footwear. • AMRUT Global Technology and Application Centre, Jaipur: Fintech and Financial Services, IT, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Business Incubation, Plug-Play. • Integrated Resource Recovery Park, Jaipur: Recycling, Waste to Wealth, E-Waste, Plastic Waste, Battery, Vehicle Scraping, Metal.
<p>Jodhpur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boranada Extension, Jodhpur: Furniture, Handicrafts, Electric-Electronics, Textile, Agrofood. • Keru, Jodhpur: Steel, Furniture, Agro Processing, Stone. • Kankani, Jodhpur: Renewable Energy Products, Solar Modules, Steel, Textile, Heavy Engineering. • Meditech Medical Device Park, Jodhpur: Medical Engineering Instruments, Surgical Instruments, Hospital Furniture, Technical Textile Medical Products, Mask Products.
<p>Balotra</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petro Zone, Balotra: Plastic, Technical Textile, Pharma-API, Chemical, Rubber and PU Base Industry.
<p>Alwar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salarpur, Bhiwadi: Possibility of automobile, heavy engineering, electrical-electronics, FMCG industrial unit.
<p>Chittorgarh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soniwana: Glass and ceramic, textile-garment, stone.
<p>quota</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gundi Fatehpuria: Stone, Agro Processing, Engineering.
<p>Bikaner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gajner: Ceramics, Minerals, Agro, Wool Processing.

Industrial Area	Plots	Area
Chaduaal, Sirohi	173	99
Ganeshwar, Sikar	61	89
Jhak, Jodhpur	159	77
Sahada, Bhilwara	205	114
Mahua Kalan, Bhilwara	212	213
Malki Tous, Udaipur	80	30
Malsisar, Jhunjhunu	148	49
Murda, Rajsamand	158	99
Nadol, Pali	172	94
Nainwan, Bundi	192	42
Varkana, Pali	144	40

Veergatha Project

- It is an initiative launched by the Education Department of Rajasthan.
- The project will start in the schools of the state from 17 October 2024 to instill the feeling of patriotism.
- Its main objective is to inform the students about the bravery of the gallantry awardees.
- The biographies of such great men have to be spread to awaken the feeling of patriotism among the students.
- Under the project, competitions will be organized for students in activities like painting, poetry, essay.
- In this, 100 winners will be selected at the national level.
- The best participants will be awarded at the national level by the Ministry of Defence and the Union Ministry of Education.

Operation Vajra Prahar

- **This is an initiative of the Jaipur Range Police Administration.**
- Under this, a campaign was conducted to apprehend and detain wanted criminals to maintain law and order in the area.
- **It was conducted** in all the districts of Jaipur range.
- Jaipur Range IG: Ajaypal Lamba
- Rajasthan Director General of Police: Utkal Ranjan Sahu

Operation Garima

- It has been started by Jaipur Police.
- It is a 15-day campaign to provide safety and legal information to women.
- Operation Garima was launched on 1st October 2024 with an awareness rally.
- The campaign will run from October 1 to 15.
- Under this, effective monitoring will be done regarding the complaints received on the women dignity helpline 1090.

Incredible Alwar Campaign

- The Alwar district administration has started the 'Incredible Alwar' campaign to make the district clean.
- Under this, various cleanliness related activities are

being organized.

- Ward-wise supervisory officers have been appointed for successful implementation and smooth conduct of the Incredible Alwar Cleanliness Campaign.
- This campaign will be conducted in three phases.
- Garbage sensitive points will be identified and tree plantation and selfie points will be made there.
- The aim of this campaign is to establish Alwar city as a garbage free, clean city, plastic free, water plus and ODF plus city.

'Suraksha Sakhi Samvad Pakhwada

- This campaign was carried out from October 5 to October 20 on the instructions of the Rajasthan government.
- Under this, 3.51 lakh women and girls under 1000 police stations were made aware of women safety in villages, guwads, nooks and mohallas and prominent places.
- Women were made aware through active security sakhis attached to all the police stations of Rajasthan.
- For this, nodal officers were appointed by the State Government in all the districts.

Operation Kavach

- Operation Kavach was launched by the Regional Transport Office (RTO) against illegal vehicles in the state from 8th October 2024.

Gandhi Vatika

- The operation of Gandhi Vatika (Gandhi Darshan Museum) by the Art and Culture Department of the state was started on 2 October 2024(Gandhi Jayanti).
- This museum is located in the Central Park of Jaipur.
- It will be operated by the Department of Art and Culture and the newly built Gandhi Vatika (Gandhi Darshan Museum) will start functioning.
- It depicts Gandhiji's childhood, his life journey, South Africa tour, Satyagraha, Quit India Movement, Chauri-Chora Movement etc. for tourists.

Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Governance and Social Sciences

- It is located in Jaipur.
- This institute was started on 21 October 2024.
- It will be an autonomous institution providing teaching, research and training in governance and related fields.
- Here Gandhian philosophy will also be studied along with subjects related to governance and social sciences.
- The new syllabus will also offer courses such as certificates, diplomas and degrees in climate change, state policy, economics, sociology and public administration.
- The Act of this Institute has been passed by the Assembly.
- Registrar, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Governance and Social Sciences: **Somitra Nath Jha**

Jaipur Foot Manufacturing Centre to be set up in Malawi

- A permanent Jaipur Foot Manufacturing Centre will be set up in Malawi in collaboration with the Government of India for the rehabilitation of Malawi Divyang people.
- Recently, President Smt. Droupadi Murmu has announced the establishment of Jaipur Foot Construction Centre during her visit to Malawi.
- For this, the Government of India and Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) will provide machines, other equipment and 1000 to 1500 foots to the center of Jaipur Malawi.

Double Decker Electric Cruise Begins in Ajmer

- The double-decker electric cruise in Ajmer's Anasagar Lake was inaugurated on 4 October 2024.
- The cruise has 75 seats each on the first and second floors and is also a rooftop restaurant.
- In this, a variety of domestic and foreign food on payment will be served to the passengers.

5th National Water Awards

- The 5th National Water Awards were announced by the Union Government on 14th October.
- Under this, 38 winners including joint winners in 9 categories will be awarded.
- These include Best State, Best District, Best Gram Panchayat, Best Urban Local Bodies, Best Schools or Colleges, Best Industries, Best Water Users Associations, Best Institutions (other than School or College) and Best Civil Society.
- **Best States for the Year 2023**
 1. Odisha
 2. Uttar Pradesh
 3. Gujarat and Padcheri (jointly)

Best Districts for Water Conservation and Water Management

- North Zone: Ganderbal (Jammu and Kashmir) and Banda (Uttar Pradesh)
- From South Zone - Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)
- East Zone – Balangir (Odisha)
- From Western Zone – Indore (Madhya Pradesh)
- North East Zone – Dhalai (Tripura)
- **Best Schools in Water Management in Educational Institutions**

Government Upper Primary School (Sikar, Rajasthan)

- Note: Rajasthan's Birla Institute of Technology Jhunjhunu has been named among the best institute (other than school/college) with a special mention.

Jaipur's Asha Mahila Milk Producers Association gets 'Dairy Innovation Award'

- Recently, at the IDF World Dairy Summit held in Paris, Jaipur's Asha Mahila Milk Producers Association has been awarded the 'Dairy Innovation Award'.
- The award was given to the association for its initiative of sustainable processing of milk.

Rajasthan Nari Shakti Ratna-2024

- 21 women were awarded the Rajasthan Nari Shakti Ratna-2024 on 14 October 2024 for outstanding work by the Governor of Rajasthan.
- This honor is given by the Mahila Suraksha Manch in the state.
- This award was given for the outstanding work of women in the field of women safety, education, medical, environment, fashion, jewelry, entrepreneurship etc. in the state.
- President of Mahila Suraksha Manch: Babita Sharma

MoU to make Jaipur a sports hub

- Jaipur city will be developed as a sports hub to promote sports in Rajasthan.
- For this, an MoU was also signed with the Government of Rajasthan and Royal Multisports Private Limited, the owner of the Rajasthan Royals cricket team, on 18 October 2024 at Lord's Cricket Ground in London.
- Stadium, sports training center, sports medicine and sports facilities will be developed in it.
- Note: Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma held a meeting with representatives of British companies inviting them to Rising Rajasthan and participated in the Investor Road Show in London.

MoU between Government of Rajasthan and REC Limited

- REC Limited, a non-banking financial company under the Union Ministry of Power, will give a loan of Rs 3 lakh crore to the Rajasthan government in six years for power projects.
- For this, the company signed an MoU with the state government on 1 October 2024.
- The loan will be for projects in both power and non-power infrastructure sectors.
- By 2030, the company will provide a loan of Rs 50,000 crore per year.
- With this loan, power infrastructure will be improved and power projects will be set up in the state.

Hindustan Zinc signs MoU with IIT Madras

- Hindustan Zinc Limited signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, IIT Madras on 9 October 2024 to promote zinc-based batteries in the country.
- Under this, a kilowatt of electrically rechargeable zinc air battery prototype will be developed.
- This partnership will be important in the development of zinc-based battery technologies.
- Lithium-ion batteries are currently in play. But its high cost, limited resource availability and security concerns are big challenges.
- A solution to zinc-based alternatives can be a solution to these challenges.
- The partnership will advance research on zinc-air battery technology.

MoU with Rajasthan Government for Wedding Tourism

- The inaugural session of the Rising Rajasthan Tourism Summit- 2024 was held on 8th October 2024 in Jaipur.
- It was organized by the Government of Rajasthan in partnership with FICCI.
- Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari were the chief guests on the occasion.
- Sandeep & Family LLP signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Rajasthan government.
- The MoU is based on an upcoming project with Hilton's luxury brand, Signia by Hilton, which aims to develop 300 luxury hotels in Rajasthan.
- It aims to establish the state as a major wedding venue in the country.

RTDC signs Rs 415 crore loan agreement with HUDCO

- A loan agreement of Rs 415 crore was signed between RTDC and HUDCO on 7th October 2024.
- Under this, a long-term loan of Rs 415 crore will be given from HUDCO at an interest rate of 9.12%.
- It aims to promote tourism development in Rajasthan.
- Under this, pilgrimage sites, monuments will be renovated and new tourist places will be developed.
- The MoU was signed by RTDC MD Sushma Arora and HUDCO Regional Head Sudhir Bhatnagar.

MoU with Tata Group to upgrade machinery and technology

- An MoU has been signed with the Tata Group to upgrade machinery and other technology in polytechnic colleges and ITI centers of Rajasthan.
- Under this, Tata will run the technical operation of 48 polytechnic colleges and 150 ITI centers of Rajasthan.
- The Tata group will train the students with the latest technology and skills by a team of experts with new machinery.

MoU between Jaipur Rugs and Happiness Foundation

- An MoU was signed between Jaipur Rugs and Happiness Foundation on 11 October 2024 to do better work for mental health nutrition.
- Under this, Jaipur Rugs will work closely with the Foundation for Mental Health Nutrition in the country.
- In this sequence, Happiness Foundation and Jaipur Rugs will jointly run the Jaipur Rugs Institute, which will serve as a center of excellence for mental health nutrition.
- Under this, employees will be trained to maintain better mental health.

RCDF signs MoU with companies for investment in dairy sector

- The Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation (RCDF) signed MoUs worth Rs 500 crore on 24 October 2024 with various companies for investment in the dairy sector in the state of Rajasthan.
- RCDF signed MoUs with Maruti Suzuki India, Seepa Solar Company and National Dairy Development Board Anand (Gujarat).
- MoUs were signed with Seepa Solar Company for solar energy and Jaipur Dairy for butter cold storage.
- More than 10 thousand flexi biogas plants will be set up in collaboration with National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Maruti Suzuki India.

Helicopter service will start from Chandbawdi to Bhangarh Fort

- Chandbawdi is located in Abhaneri village of Dausa district of Rajasthan.
- Chandbawdi has been ranked fifth among the top historical monuments in the country in the year 2024.
- Helicopter service will be started by the Tourism Department from Abhaneri Chandbawdi to Bhangarh in Alwar district in the year 2025.
- Apart from this, night tourism will also be started in Chand Baori.

DRDO Defence Laboratory Jodhpur develops camouflage technology for military weapons and vehicles

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Jodhpur-based defence laboratory has developed camouflage technology for Army weapons and vehicles.
- Special types of paint and stickers have been prepared in it.
- By applying coatings and stickers on large weapons like artillery guns, tanks, missile systems, enemy satellites and cameras of drones and aircraft will not be able to trace weapons.
- The defence laboratory tested it on a T-90 tank at the Pokhran field firing range in Jaisalmer.
- A coating and sticker of special algorithms was applied on the T-90 tank.
- The defence lab has developed multi-spectral camouflage stickers in five military colour shades with the help of special algorithms.
- It has a sand-like, vegetable color, brown, white color and another color sticker.

IIT Jodhpur launches degree programme in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur collaborates with Evolution University to develop Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) and a four-year degree program in data science.

- In this, 12th pass students will be able to take admission and admission will be on the basis of screening test.
- There will be no need for JEE entrance test or GATE marks. It will be a flexible degree.
- It is initiated on the Stackable Degree Model pattern.
- In it–
 - Staying connected for 1 year - Certificate
 - Staying connected for 2 years - Diploma
 - On studying for 3 years – B.Sc. degree
- On completion of four years – Bachelor of Science (BS) degree
- Note: A Technology Innovation Hub has been created in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology, Central Government at IIT Jodhpur.

IIT Jodhpur: Generative AI, Srijan Kendra set up

- **IndiaAI and Meta announced the setting up of the**

Wafukai Hospital & Home Care (Tokyo, Japan)	Yamashita Company (Japan)	Seoul Technical High School Group (South Korea)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will start educational institutions for teaching Japanese language and skill development to the youth of Rajasthan. • Apart from investing in the state, this company will also provide jobs to skilled youth in Japan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This company will send engineers and technology experts along with setting up the industry, who will train in terms of technology. • Such trained youth will be given certificates in collaboration with the Rajasthan government and they will be given priority in employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will work on AI-based technology for selected schools and teachers of Rajasthan. • It will enhance AI-based learning to make children techno-friendly.

Ayush drug stores to open at tehsil level

- The central government will open Ayush drug stores at tehsil level to make AYUSH medicines available to the public.
- Herbal and traditional medicines will be available in these stores.
- Note: Ayurvedic package will be included under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Arogya Yojana.

Dr. Krishna Poonia becomes member of Athletes Commission

- Olympian and Padma Shri Dr. Krishna Poonia was elected unopposed as a member of the 5-member Athletes Commission of the Athletics Federation of India.
- Apart from Dr Poonia from Rajasthan, Anju Bobby George from Karnataka, Bahadur Singh from Punjab, Jyotirmoi Sikander from West Bengal and MD Valsamma from Kerala are the other members of the panel.

Vinod Goswami

- Vinod Goswami, an architect from Rajasthan, has created a new statue of the 'Goddess of Justice' in the Supreme Court.

Centre for Generative AI, Srijan at IIT Jodhpur.

- The partnership aims to contribute to India's AI mission of developing indigenous Artificial Intelligence, promoting skill development in AI and ensuring technological sovereignty.
- Meta will support the establishment of this **Generative AI, creation center (GenAI CoE).**
- GenAI CoE aims to promote the development of responsible and ethical AI technologies.

Companies from Japan and South Korea will provide Rajasthan AI based technical training

- 3 companies from Japan and South Korea will provide technology-friendly skill development and AI-based technical training to the youth of Rajasthan.
- This includes Tokyo's Wafukai Hospital and Home Care Group, Yamashita Company and Seoul Technical High School Group.

- Note: Recently a new statue of 'Goddess of Justice' has been installed in the Supreme Court.
- In this new statue, the bandage tied on the eye of the goddess has been removed.
- Through this statue, a change has been made in the many years old practice. Now the bandage from the eyes of the goddess of justice and the sword in her hand have been removed.
- The goddess of justice is dressed in Indian attire, saree instead of gown and the constitution is handed over in her hand.

Dr. Shyam Agarwal

- Dr. Shyam Agarwal has been made the Vice President of Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Dr. Agrawal has done remarkable work in the industrial sector in the state.
- Prior to this, he has been the National President of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India.
- He is the youngest person to become the national president of the professional body.
- President of Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce and Industry: KL Jain

Prof. Dayanand Bhargava

- A brilliant thinker and Vedic scientist, Prof. Dayanand Bhargava (89) passed away on 22 October 2024.
- He was awarded the President's Award for special contribution to Sanskrit literature.
- Pro. Dayanand was also given the Sanskrit Sadhana Shikhar Award by the Government of Rajasthan.
- He has been a professor and dean at Jodhpur University.

Banwari Lal Sharma

- Former Rajasthan minister Banwari Lal Sharma passed away on 22 October 2024.
- Banwari Lal Sharma was born on 8 March 1938 in Pachgaon Dholpur.
- Banwari Lal was elected MLA from Dholpur for the first time in the year 1967 and was MLA for five times from 1967 to 2008.
- Banwari Lal Sharma was the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Public Health and Engineering Department and Information and Public Relations Department in the Government of Rajasthan.
- Banwari Lal Sharma has also been the state president of Rajasthan Kabaddi Association.

Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania

- Gyanprakash Pilania passed away on 13 October 2024.
- He has been the Director General of Police of Rajasthan and a Rajya Sabha MP.
- In 2004, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha as a representative of the Bharatiya Janata Party from Rajasthan and in the year 2008, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha for the second time. He was a 1955 batch Indian Police Service officer and was the Director General of Police, Rajasthan from August 1988 to December 1989.
- He has also been a member of the Rajasthan Public Service Commission.
- He played a major role in getting reservation for Jat society in Rajasthan.
- Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania was from Sriganganagar district of the state.
- Major Books: 'Enlighten Government in Modern India', 'Heritage of Sawai Jaisingh'.

Dr. Jayshree Padiwal

- Dr. Jayshree Padiwal has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Rajasthan.
- The Rajasthan state office of the Indian Chamber of Commerce was inaugurated on 7 October 2024.
- The current president of Indian Chamber of Commerce is Amey Prabhu.

Balika Sainik Schools to open in 9 divisions of Rajasthan

- In order to promote girl education in Rajasthan, Balika Sainik Schools will be opened in 9 divisions of the state.
- These schools will be started in Ajmer, Kota, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Pali, Bharatpur, Churu and Udaipur.

For the first time, a new queue management system will be implemented in Rajasthan hospitals

- A queue management system will be implemented in hospitals in Rajasthan to facilitate long queues and appointments for patients coming from far-flung districts.
- This system will be started from hospitals affiliated to medical colleges.

Mobile Veterinary & Call Center

- A call centre for mobile veterinary units was inaugurated at Rajasthan State Livestock Management and Training Institute, Jaipur.
- Mobile veterinary and call centre has been started for livestock and livestock rearers.
- With the introduction of the call center facility, animals will start getting treatment at home, which will save both their time and money.
- Objective: To provide maximum benefit to livestock and livestock farmers by ensuring maximum utilization of call centres.
- Minister of Animal Husbandry, Gopalan, Dairying and Devasthan: Shri Ram Kumawat
- Minister of State, Animal Husbandry, Cow Husbandry, Fisheries and Home Department: Shri Jawahar Singh Bedham

Notification issued to relax eligibility for authorisation of freelance journalists

- In Rajasthan, under the commitment to the welfare of journalists and their empowerment, on 9 October 2024, the state government issued a notification to relax the eligibility of authorization to independent journalists.
- According to the Rajasthan Press Representative Authorization Rules 1995 (Amended) Rules 2024, now the minimum eligibility age has been fixed at 45 years and experience 15 years, relaxing the age limit and experience of authorization of independent journalists.
- Prior to the amendment, the minimum age limit was fixed at 50 years and experience eligibility was 25 years. It is noteworthy that keeping in mind the journalist welfare in the budget announcement 2024-25 by the state government, the eligibility for independent journalists has been relaxed in the approval rules in the budget announcement 2024-25.

Intensive Quality Control Campaign

- The campaign was launched by the state agriculture department on 10 October 2024.
- Under this, action was taken against agricultural input manufacturers, sellers, irregularities of retail traders, black marketing and hoarders.
- In this, the officers have been instructed to take necessary steps to provide quality agricultural inputs and pesticides to the farmers.

43rd India International Trade Fair-2024

- Theme: Developed India@2047
- Event: Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- When: November 14-27, 2024
- In this, 'Rajasthan Mandapam' will be set up by Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Limited for promotion of Rising Rajasthan Investment Summit and promotion of small industries.

Global Summit at Abu Road



- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Global Summit at Shantivan of the Brahma Kumaris Institute, Abu Road on 4 October 2024.
- The conference was organized on the theme "Clean and Healthy Society through Spirituality".
- Chief Administrator of Brahma Kumaris Institute: **Rajyogini Jayanti Didi**

South Asia Energy Forum

- It is being organized on 22-24 October 2024 in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- Conducted by: United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Three new initiatives were announced by USAID, the Low-Carbon Comfort and Cooling Collective, the US South Asia Mayor on Environmentally Sound Development of Cities, and the Clean Energy Investment Facilitation Platform.
- Note: The installed renewable energy capacity in India has exceeded 200 GW and Rajasthan is contributing the maximum of 29.85 GW.
- By 2030, the target has been set to meet 50 percent of India's energy needs from renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions by one billion tonnes.

'Adi Gaurav Samman' Ceremony

- The 'Adi Gaurav Samman' ceremony was held at Mangarh Dham in Banswara on 4 October 2024.
- It was attended by the President of India Droupadi Murmu, Governor Haribhau Kishanrao Bagde and Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma.
- In this, the President awarded various people and institutions with Adiratna, Adiseva and Adigrammotthan Gaurav for their outstanding contribution in tribal development.
- Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma announced development works worth Rs 5 crore for the development of Mangarh Dhuni area.

Marwar Festival

- This was done in Jodhpur on October 16-17, 2024.
- It was organized under the joint aegis of Tourism Department and District Administration, Jodhpur.
- Its purpose is to showcase local art and culture and promote tourism.

27th Lokrang Festival

- The festival was held at Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur from October 18.
- The 11-day festival showcased the folk culture of several states.
- In this, artisans from different states will set up stalls of handicraft products in the National Handicrafts Fair to be held in Shilpgram.
- Lokrang provides a platform to preserve and support the arts prevalent in the folk world.

Swayamsidha Handicrafts Exhibition-2024

- Event: Laghu Udyog Bharti Mahila Sangathan, Jaipur.
- When: 4th to 6th October 2024
- Where: Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur.
- In this exhibition, products of Swayamsiddha handicrafts of 6 states are being displayed.
- Stalls of products of famous artisans, cottage industries and women industries have been set up in it.

Amrita Haat Bazaar

- The state-level Amrita Haat Bazaar started at Jawahar Kala Kendra on 4 October 2024 by the Women and Child Development Department.
- In this, 80 women self-help groups of various districts and 123 stalls of products made by women have been set up.
- The objective of this exhibition is to encourage various handicrafts of Rajasthan by providing a platform.

CA's National Conference 'Pragyanotsav'

- In Rajasthan, a National Conference 'Pragyanotsav Synthesizing the Profession' was organized for CA members in Jaipur on 15th and 16th October.
- Event: Jaipur Branch of Indian CA Institute.
- Inaugurated: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.

State Level Conference of Forensic Experts

- The two-day conference of the Rajasthan Academy of Forensic Medicine was inaugurated on 18 October 2024 in Kota.
- It discussed the importance of forensics and the use of innovative techniques in bringing justice to the victims and punishment of the guilty.
- Rajasthan President of Forensic Medicine: Dr. Shiv Ratan Kochhar

NATCON-2024 National Conference

- Evented: 18-20 October 2024.
- Venue: Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur.
- Conducted by: Tuberculosis Association of India.
- In this conference, workshops were organized on Basic and Advanced Bronchoscopy, EBUS, Pulmonary Function Testing, Non-Invasive Ventilation, Tuberculosis Workshop, Sleep Therapy and Medical Pleuroscopy.
- President of Tuberculosis Association of India: V.M. Singh Katoch.
- Improving the treatment of TB and other lung diseases using new and advanced technologies was widely discussed.

Annual Report of Rajasthan Lokayukta

- Recently, the annual report of Lokayukta was presented in the Rajasthan Assembly.
- It recommends expansion of jurisdiction and greater autonomy.
- The present Lokayukta of Rajasthan is Justice Pratap Krishna Lohra.
- It is headquartered in Jaipur.

Recommendations

- The Lokayukta should be enabled to function independently rather than as a recommendatory body. For this, the scope of jurisdiction will have to be increased, while autonomy will have to be given.
- Include provision for making a complaint by a public servant.
- Lokayukta should be empowered to issue warrants for search and seizure.
- Like Kerala, Lokayuktas can issue prohibitory orders.
- The institution of Lokayukta should get financial autonomy.

The following were recommended to be brought under the purview of the Lokayukta:

- Sarpanch and Deputy Sarpanch
- Mayor-Deputy Mayor of Co-operative Societies and Municipal Corporations
- Councillors of urban bodies
- Vice-Chancellors, Registrars and other staff of universities
- Office bearers of government funded NGOs

Rajasthan Lokayukta

- **In the year 1973, the Rajasthan Lokayukta and Up-Lokayuktas Ordinance was passed, which came into force in Rajasthan from February 3, 1973.**
- It received the assent of the Hon'ble President on **26th March, 1973** i.e. the Act came into force in the State.
- **The first Lokayukta in Rajasthan Shri I.D. Dua was appointed by the Governor on 28 August 1973.**
- **K.P.U. Menon was made** the first Uplokyukta on June 5, 1973.
- **Note:** Complaints cannot be made to the Lokayukta in cases older than five years.
- The first law regarding Lokpal was enacted in Orissa in the year 1970, but Lokayukta was established there only in 1983.
- Maharashtra became the first state in the country to appoint Lokayukta by passing the Lokayukta Act in 1971.

Annual Report:

- The Lokayuktas submit their annual report to the Governor.
- The Governor gets the special report received from the Lokayukta placed on the table of the State Legislative Assembly.

World University Rankings 2025

- **Released by:** The Times Higher Education on 9 October 2024.
- In this, Oxford University has been ranked first globally.
- No Indian institution could make it to the top-100 in this list.
- Indian Institute of Science (IIS) Bengaluru ranked first among Indian institutions.
- The rank of this institute is in the 251-300 band. (Last year rank was in the band from 201 to 250.)
- Institutions from Rajasthan have ranked in the rank band of 601 to 800.
 - Birla Institute of Science and Technology (BITS Pilani), MNIT Jaipur
- The ranking has been done keeping in mind 5 metrics. This includes teaching at number one, research environment at second, research quality industry and international outlook.
- There are 22 institutions from India in this list.

UDISE Report 2021-22

- The report was released by the Union Ministry of Education and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- The Ministry of Statistics has released the report from the year 2018-19 to the year 2021-22. The national average of female teachers is 41.59 percent.
- There are 86 female teachers per 100 male teachers in primary schools in Rajasthan, compared to the national average of 126 per 100 male teachers.

- Tamil Nadu has the highest number of female teachers in 28 states, with 577 female teachers for 100 male teachers.
- According to the report Women and 2023 of the Ministry of Statistics, Rajasthan has 36.47 percent female teachers in higher education.
- In terms of female professors in higher education, Kerala ranks first with 61.33 per cent female teachers.
- In southern states, the number of female teachers in primary education is much higher than men. Whereas in most Hindi speaking states this number is less.
- Among the Hindi-speaking states, Haryana is the best.
- According to the Women and Men in 2023 report, only Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have seen a decrease in the number of female teachers (professors) in higher education in 28 states.
- In the year 2018-19, where 36.71% of the total professors in Rajasthan were women, it dropped to 36.47% in the year 2021-22.

List of 25 tourist cities in the country

- This list has been released by online travel port Thrillophilia for the 25 best cities in the country to visit in November.
- These include 5 cities from Rajasthan.
- Jaisalmer is second in this list. While Pushkar is fifth, Udaipur seventh, Bharatpur 12th and Jodhpur 25th.

'State Finances: A Risk Analysis' Report

- The report was released by the Reserve Bank of India.
- Accordingly, the effects of the financial management of the states and the amount of debt have been assessed.
- It expresses concern over the financial management of Indian states.
- By the year 2026-27, the state governments, which are victims of financial mismanagement, will have more than 30% of their GSDP debt.
- These states include West Bengal, Rajasthan, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Haryana and Punjab.

Estimated debt burden by 2026-27

SN	State	Debt (relative to GSDP of the state)
1.	Punjab	47%
2.	Rajasthan	39%
3.	Kerala	38%
4.	West Bengal	37%
5.	Andhra Pradesh	34%

बिगड़ते हालात: 2027 तक 30% बढ़ सकता है आंकड़ा राज्यों पर बढ़ रहा कर्ज, सुधरे नहीं तो पीढ़ियां होगी परेशान

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नई दिल्ली/ कोलकाता. देश के कई राज्यों की अर्थव्यवस्था इन दिनों मुश्किल दौर से गुजर रही है। राज्यों पर कर्ज का भार बढ़ रहा है। आरबीआइ की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक राज्यों के वित्तीय प्रबंधन में तत्काल सुधार नहीं किया गया तो लगातार बढ़ रही कर्ज की राशि आने वाले दो-तीन वर्ष में 30 फीसदी से ज्यादा बढ़ सकती है। सरकारों को रोजमर्रा के काम कराने में भी खासी मुश्किल पेश आ सकती है। रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (आरबीआइ) की रिपोर्ट में 'स्टेट फाइनेंस: अ रिस्क एनालिसिस' में राज्यों के वित्तीय प्रबंधन पर चिंता जाहिर की गई है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक राज्य सरकारें बोट बैंक पुख्ता करने के लिए ऐसी जगह खर्च कर रही हैं, जहाँ से कमाई नहीं हो रही। मार्च, 2024 तक सभी राज्य सरकारों पर 75 लाख करोड़ रुपए का कर्ज था। मार्च, 2025 तक कर्ज बढ़कर 83.31 लाख करोड़ से ज्यादा हो जाएगा। आरबीआइ का अनुमान है कि 2026-27 तक वित्तीय कुप्रबंधन का शिकार राज्य सरकारों पर अपनी जीएसडीपी का 30% से ज्यादा कर्ज हो जाएगा। इन राज्यों में पश्चिम बंगाल, राजस्थान, केरल, आंध्र प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड, तमिलनाडु, बिहार, हरियाणा व पंजाब शामिल हैं। विशेषज्ञ मानते हैं कि इसकी कीमत अगली पीढ़ी चुकाएगी।

किस राज्य पर कितना कर्ज

ऐसे बिगड़ी व्यवस्था

रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया के मुताबिक 2018-19 में सभी राज्य सरकारों ने सब्सिडी पर 1.87 लाख करोड़ रुपए खर्च किए थे। इसके बाद 2022-23 में यह बढ़कर 3 लाख करोड़ रुपए का आंकड़ा पार कर गया। मार्च, 2019 तक सभी राज्य सरकारों पर 47.86 लाख करोड़ का कर्ज था, जो मार्च 2024 तक बढ़कर 75 लाख करोड़ से ज्यादा हो गया। मार्च 2025 तक यह बढ़कर 83 लाख करोड़ पार कर जाएगा। सबसे बड़ी चिंता यह है कि इसकी रोकथाम के लिए उपाय नहीं किए जा रहे।

यह हो सकता है असर

राज्यों के कर्जदार होने से लोगों को परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ेगा। राजस्व की कमी से राज्यों में शहरी विकास, स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं, नवाचार, संपदा निर्माण पर असर पड़ेगा।

ICDS ranked 4th in National Nutrition Month- 2024

- The Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) under the Department of Women and Child Development of Rajasthan has been ranked 4th at the national level in the Jan Andolan Dash Board for National Nutrition Month- 2024. According to the Jan Andolan Dashboard, Churu has got the first rank, Tonk second and Hanumangarh has got the third rank in making entries in Rajasthan.
- In the entries of activities organized under the National Nutrition Month 2024, Maharashtra has got the first position, Bihar has got the second and Chhattisgarh has got the third position at the national level.

Status of women in higher educational institutions in Rajasthan

- According to data presented by the state government in the Assembly, the number of girl students in higher educational institutions is increasing faster than boys.
- Apart from this, women lag behind in top positions in university-level institutions in Rajasthan.
- Of the 34 universities run by the state government, only seven have women vice-chancellors.
- The number of girl students in these universities and their affiliated colleges is more than boys.
- In the current academic session, there are 120 girl students per 100 students in higher educational institutions.

प्रदेश में उच्च शिक्षण संस्थान	
31	राज्य के विवि
05	राष्ट्रीय स्तर के संस्थान
07	डीम्ड विवि
53	निजी उच्च शिक्षण संस्थान
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2,460 कुल महाविद्यालय </div>	

Rajasthan becomes 10th largest state in mutual fund investment

- Rajasthan has become the 10th largest state in the country in terms of investment in mutual fund schemes.
- Rajasthan's mutual fund assets under management (AUM) have grown to Rs 1.28 lakh crore.
- Rajasthan's equity AUM has grown at a compounded rate of 36% in the last 5 years.
- As of June 2024, Jaipur had a 45% share in the total AUM of Rajasthan with a total AUM of Rs 51.5 thousand crore.
- Jaipur's mutual fund AUM is Rs 51,519 crore, which is 0.84% of the country's total mutual fund AUM.

Ranking of Ayurveda colleges in the country released

- Issuer: National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) New Delhi.
- For the first time in the country, the ranking of Ayurvedic colleges has been released.
- This ranking was released for the session 2024- 25.

Top 3 Institutes

1. National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA) Jaipur (Grade-A)
 2. SDM College of Ayurveda Udupi (Karnataka)
 3. Vaidyaratnam PS Warrior Ayurveda College Kotakkal (Kerala)
- NCISM has awarded ratings, grades and ranks to 221 Ayurveda medical colleges in the country. In this, 55-55 colleges have got A&B and 111 colleges have got C grade.

Other Institutes of Rajasthan

- Shekhawati Ayurveda College Pilani (77th Rank & B Grade)
- Ayurveda College Sriganganagar (158th Rank & C Grade)
- Ayurveda College Jodhpur (181st Rank & C Grade)
- Ayurveda College Udaipur (185th Rank & C Grade)
- Shri Shirdi Saibaba Ayurveda College Renwal (191st Rank & C Grade)

4G/5G Jaipur ranks fourth in the country in 5G speed

- 4G/5G Srinagar is the top smart city in the country in 5G availability, internet quality and speed.
- The analysis was conducted by private analytics agency Opensignal.

- Under this, an index of the top-50 cities of the country has been prepared.
- In this, the digital readiness and mobile infrastructure of major cities including 100 smart cities of the country was assessed.
- In this, Jaipur is at number four in internet speed, availability and quality of 4G or 5G, while Delhi is 13th and Mumbai 28th.

Rajasthan records highest number of deaths due to asthma and COPD

- Recently, the Seasonal Wave of Respiratory Disease (SWORD) survey was conducted by the Indian Chest Society, in which respiratory patients were studied from 290 centers in the country.
- According to this, the highest number of deaths due to COPD and asthma occur in Rajasthan.
- India accounts for 17% of asthma and COPD patients globally.

Sports Department launches Single Window System and 3 Portals

- For the convenience of the youth and players of Rajasthan, 3 portals have been launched by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports on 28 October 2024.
- **Objective:** To collect all the important information related to youth and players in one place.
- All three portals are available on the website of SSO Rajasthan and Youth Board.
- The Youth Affairs and Sports Department of Rajasthan has implemented a single window system for sportspersons.

3 Portals of Sports Department

1. **Youth Registration Portal for 'Youth Mahotsav'**
 - This registration portal for the block, district, division level of the Youth Festival.
2. **Registration portal of Rajasthan Youth Icon Award**
 - This is the registration portal of Rajasthan Youth Icon Award to apply at the state level.
3. **' Digital Repository Portal'**
 - It will also get a 'Digital Repository Portal' for sports certificates of players.
 - This portal provides the facility to the players to keep all their sports certificates safe in digital form, so that they will not have to take the trouble of protecting the physical certificates.

19th All India Hanuman Singh Women's Handball Championship

- It was held from 16-18 October 2024 at the Sawai Mansingh Indoor Stadium in Jaipur.
- The championship was organized by the Handball Association India by the Rajasthan State Handball Association and Hanuman Singh Foundation.

- In this match, Himachal Pradesh defeated Indian Railways to win the Handball Championship title.
- In this championship, Himachal Pradesh stood first, Indian Railways second and Haryana and Morsingi Handball Nursery jointly stood third.
- Best Player of the Tournament: Bhawana Sharma (HP)
- Best Goalkeeper: Nina Shil (Indian Railways).

Vivaan Kapoor won silver and Anantjeet Singh Naruka won bronze

- The ISSF World Cup was recently held in Delhi in India.
- Indian shooter Vivaan Kapoor won the silver medal in the men's trap event at the ISSF World Cup Final. Vivaan scored 44 shots in the final.
- Anantjeet Singh Naruka won the bronze medal in men's skeet. Naruka scored 43 shots in the final.
- **Note: Vivaan Kapoor and Anantjeet Singh Naruka are from Rajasthan.**
- India won a total of 4 medals in this World Cup.

Rajasthan medal winners felicitated at Paris Paralympics

- The medal winners of Rajasthan at the Paris Paralympics were felicitated by the Divyang Para Sports Association of Rajasthan.

Medal winners of Rajasthan at Paris Paralympics

1. Avani Lekhara (Gold Medal) (Shooting)
 2. Mona Agarwal (Bronze) (Shooting)
 3. Sundar Singh Gurjar (Bronze Medal) (Javelin Throw)
- Dronacharya Awardee athletic coach Mahavir Saini was also felicitated.
 - Note: The current President of Paralympic Committee of India: Mr. Devendra Jhajharia (First Person from Rajasthan).

National Sub Junior, Junior, Senior Weightlifting Competition

- It was organized in Nagrota, Himachal Pradesh.
- Rajasthan won 4 medals in this. These include two gold, one silver and one bronze medal.
- Harcharan Singh (senior category) won two gold medals in the 109 kg category.
- Hariom Sharma won silver medal in sub-junior 96 kg.
- Ajay Sharma won bronze medal in sub-junior 73 kg category.

68th National School Games Table Tennis Championship

- Event: Leh in Ladakh.
- In this competition, Rajasthan won the silver medal for the first time in the 19 years category.
- Suhani Banthia, Samaira Sharma, Pranshi Mishra, Maulisha Thanvi and Drashti Gupta were part of the silver winning team.
- In its final, Delhi defeated Rajasthan.
- Instructor & Chief Day Mission: Hemlata Rawal
- Manager: Damayanti Rathore

Two players from International Petank Doubles Rajasthan included

- Two players from Rajasthan, Amit Kumar Sharma and Harshvardhan Singh, have been included in the Indian team for the International Petank Doubles Championship to be held in Malaysia.
- Amit Kumar Sharma has been made vice-captain.
- 12 players from all over the country are participating in this competition.

8th Rajasthan State Para Swimming Championship

- Event: Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur.
- In the S10 50m women's freestyle event, Sita Devi won gold, Manju Devi silver and Kamla Kanwar bronze.
- S9 50m Backstroke Kiran Tank won gold, Ramdhani Meena silver and Kunti Devi bronze.
- S9 100m Backstroke Vikram Singh Gurjar won gold, Jagdish Chand silver and Kanaram Prajapat bronze.

Indian Soft Hockey League

- It will be organized in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Richa Singh

- Rajasthan's Richa Singh has been selected in the Indian team for the Mini Golf Asian Open Championship to be held in Chiangmai, Thailand.
- Richa belongs to Jaghina village in Bharatpur.
- Richa has also participated in the Minigolf World Championship held in Sweden earlier.
- Apart from this, Richa has won bronze in the minigolf singles event at the 37th National Games held in Goa.

Umesh Chaudhary

- Umesh Chaudhary has won the gold medal in the ISSF World Championship held in Lima, Peru, South America.

Pickleball National Championships

- The National Championship of Pickleball will be held from 6-8 December 2024 at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.
- Earlier, the State Championship will be held in Udaipur from 15-17 November 2024.
- This championship was organized in the year 2016 in Rajasthan.
- In this championship, matches of sub-junior, junior and senior will be played.
- President of Rajasthan Pickleball Association: Karan Singh
- Pickleball: It is a mix sport of tennis, badminton and TT.
- Karan Singh, Sports Officer of Sports Council, is credited with starting Pickleball in Rajasthan.

8th Hepkido National Championships

- It was organized in New Delhi.
- In this, the Rajasthan team was the overall second runner-up.
- In this, 40 players from Rajasthan participated, won 47 medals including 11 gold, 16 silver and 20 bronze medals.

Amit Kataria won bronze medal in Wushu

- Wushu player Amit Kataria of Rajasthan has won the bronze medal in the Indian Wushu team for the Georgia International Wushu Competition in the 90 kg weight category.
- It was held in Butami, Georgia.
- President of Rajasthan Wushu Association: Hiranand Kataria

Deepak Hooda

- Veteran all-rounder Deepak Hooda has been appointed as the captain of the Rajasthan cricket team for the Ranji Trophy.
- Deepak is originally from Rohtak district of Haryana.
- He represented India in the ICC Under-19 World Cup in 2014.
- He currently plays for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

33rd National Bench Press Championship

- It was organized in Goa.
- In this, two players from Rajasthan Satyendra Singh Rathore and Riya Kanwar Shekhawat won gold medals.
- Satyendra won the gold medal in the 105 kg weight category with a bench press of 205 kg and Riya won the gold medal in the 76 kg weight category of the youth category with an 80 kg bench press.

24th National Para Swimming Championships

- It was held in Panaji, Goa.
- The Rajasthan team stood third in this championship.
- Rajasthan won a total of 63 medals including 25 gold, 22 silver and 16 bronze medals.
- In this championship, 68 players from Rajasthan participated in junior, sub-junior and senior categories.

National Sub Junior and Junior Squash Championships

- It was organized in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- In this, Rajasthan won 4 bronze medals.
 1. Divyanshi Jain (U-13 Girls Category)
 2. Yashi Jain (U-17 Girls Category)
 3. Avlokit Singh (U-19 Boys)
 4. Subhash Chaudhary (U-17 Boys)

Dikshant Lohia

- In the 43rd North Zone Shooting Championship, Rajasthan's Dikshant Lohia won the silver medal in the Clay Pigeon Trap Junior Individual Competition.
- The 43rd North Zone Shooting Championship was held in Delhi.

43rd North Zone Shooting Championship

- Event: In Delhi.

Medal winners of Rajasthan

- Anshul Chaudhary of Rajasthan won the gold medal in the 50 meter free pistol.
- Adhiraj Singh also won gold medal in junior men's category double trap.
- Milan Bhardwaj won the silver medal in the 50m free pistol.
- Harshvardhan Singh Kaviya won the bronze medal in the skeet competition.

2- NATIONAL AFFAIRS

(Polity and Governance)

Constitutional validity of Section 6A of Citizenship Act will remain: Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court upheld the validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act by a majority of 4:1 on 17 October 2024.
- The section deals with grant of Indian citizenship to immigrants from Assam.
- Section 6A was added in 1985 after the Assam Accord.

Key Highlights:

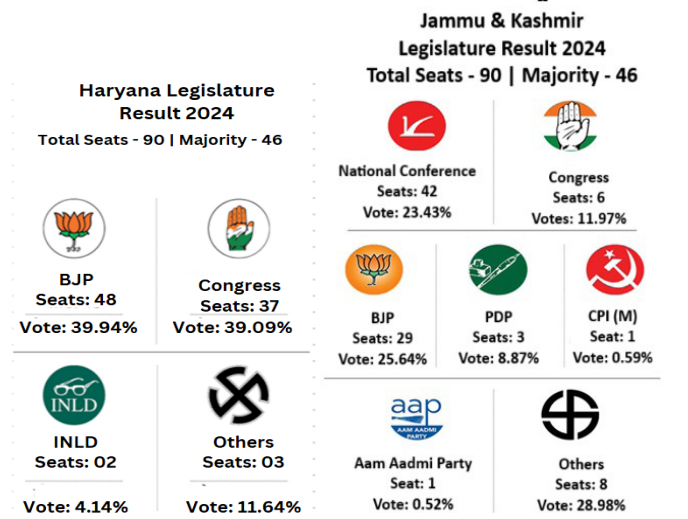
- According to Section 6A, people of Indian origin who came from Bangladesh before January 1, 1966 will be considered citizens of India.
- Persons of Indian Origin who came to the country between January 1, 1966, and March 25, 1971, will be granted citizenship only after 10 years of residence.
- Those who came after the cut-off date of March 25, 1971, would be considered illegal immigrants.
- The provision was challenged by some indigenous groups in Assam, but the Supreme Court upheld it as constitutional.

Haryana government implements sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes

- The Haryana government announced that the state government will implement the Supreme Court order on sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes (SCs) with immediate effect.
- Haryana is the first state in the country to implement the sub-categorization of Scheduled Castes (SCs).
- The Haryana Scheduled Castes Commission's report was approved ahead of the assembly elections and after the Supreme Court's August 1 verdict on the sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes.
- This commission recommended 10% sub-quota for 'disadvantaged Scheduled Castes' in state government jobs.
- In 2020, a bill was introduced by the Haryana government to increase the sub-quota for 'deprived Scheduled Castes' to 50% within the 20% quota in government educational institutions.
- It identified 36 Scheduled Castes as 'deprived Scheduled Castes'.

Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Election Results

- The results of the recently concluded Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections were declared on October 8.



- The BJP made a historic victory in Haryana for the third time and formed the government for the third consecutive time in the state.
- Elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time after the removal of Article 370.
- The National Conference-Congress alliance won the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections.

Notification issued for revocation of President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir

- President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir was revoked by the central government on **13 October 2024**.
- President's rule was imposed in Jammu and Kashmir in 2018 by the then President **Ram Nath Kovind**.
- **President's rule is imposed under Article 356 of the Constitution of India.**
- Parliament passed the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 on August 5-6, 2019**.
- Article 370 (special status) of the Constitution was also abrogated.

New statue of Goddess of Justice ('Lady of Justice') in Supreme Court

- A new statue of the Goddess of Justice ('Lady of Justice') has been installed in the Supreme Court.
- The bandage of this statue has been removed, and instead of a sword in his hand, the book of the Constitution has been given.
- This statue has been installed in the library of Supreme Court judges.
- This change has been done to leave behind the legacy of the British era and get rid of the mentality of slavery.

New statue of Lady of Justice

Costume: Indian classical dance costume.



Right hand:

The scales, a symbol of equality in society, were retained.

Eyes:

The blindfold was removed.

Left hand:

The Constitution book was placed in place of the sword.

Colour:

The idol is white in colour, placed on a white square platform.

- The scales in the right hand of the statue of the Lady of Justice are retained, as it symbolizes balance in society.
- The 'Lady of Justice' is the goddess of justice 'Justicia' of Roman Mythology.

Power to regulate industrial liquor will remain with states: Supreme Court

- The Constitution Bench of 9 judges upheld the right of the states to regulate industrial liquor by a majority of 8:1.
- The Supreme Court judges said that the term 'intoxicating liquor' in Entry 8 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution would also include industrial liquor.
- The Supreme Court said that entry 8 must contain the broadest possible definition of the term 'alcoholic liquor'.

Entry 8:

- This entry gives the States the power to regulate the production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of intoxicating liquor.

Old Statue	New statue
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The blindfold of the old statue signified that all were equal in the eyes of law and indicated the impartiality of the law. ○ The sword in the old statue's hand symbolized authority and the power to punish injustice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The purpose of the new statue is to send a message that the law in the country is not blind and it is not a symbol of punishment. ○ In the hands of the new idol, the Constitution gives the message that justice is given according to the Constitution.

3- ECONOMY

Reconstitution of Monetary Policy Committee

- The Central Government on 1st October 2024 appointed **Professor Ram Singh**, economists **Saugata Bhattacharya** and **Dr. Nagesh Kumar** as new members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Professor Ram Singh is **the Director of Delhi School of Economics**.
- Dr. Nagesh Kumar is **the Director and Chief Executive of the Institute of Industrial Development Studies**.
- **Saugata Bhattacharya** is a well-known economist.
- As per the provisions of the RBI Act, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) consists of **six members**:
 - Three members appointed by RBI (including RBI Governor, who is ex-officio Chairman)
 - Three members appointed by the central government
- **In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 452B of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**, the Central Government constitutes the Monetary Policy Committee.
- External members of the Monetary Policy Committee appointed by the Central Government **hold office for a term of 4 years** or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- The Governor of RBI **is** the ex-officio Chairman of the Monetary Policy Committee.
- The Deputy Governor of the RBI **in charge of monetary policy** is also an ex-officio member of the committee.
- **An RBI official nominated by the central board** is also an ex-officio member of the committee.

District version of PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for Aspirational Districts

- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal launched the district version of PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for 27 aspirational districts in **New Delhi in October 2024**.
- The district version of PM GatiShakti National Master Plan is a super intelligent tool for infrastructure planning and will cover over 750 districts across the country in the next 18 months.
- The PM Gati Shakti initiative was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the 75th Independence Day.
 - The scheme was launched on October 13, 2021, which aims to provide multi-modal connectivity.

Seven engines of PM Gati Shakti	The Six Principles of PM Gati Shakti
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Roads railway Airport port Mass Transport waterway Logistics Infrastructure 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Development Multimodal Infrastructure Last Mile Connectivity Quick Land Acquisition Minimum Clearance Low ecological impact

- This initiative brings together schemes of several ministries under the National Master Plan, such as Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Inland Waterways, and UDAN Scheme etc.

Pilot Project Launch of Prime Minister Internship Scheme

- The central government launched the pilot project of the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme on 3 October 2024.
- The scheme aims to provide internship opportunities to 1 crore youth in top 500 companies in five years.
- The total cost of the pilot project will be ₹800 crore and it will be started on a pilot basis in 7 districts of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Telangana.
- The internship period will be 12 months and during this time candidates will get a monthly honorarium of ₹ 5000.

Disbursement of Honorarium:

- ₹ 500 will be given by companies from their CSR fund.
- The remaining ₹4500 will be provided by the government.

Eligibility:

- Youth in the age group of 21 to 24 years who are not in full-time jobs or full-time education will be eligible under this scheme.

Increase in Minimum Support Price of Rabi Crops for Marketing Year 2025-26

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rabi crops for the marketing season 2025-26 on 16th October 2024.

MSP Hike Details:

- Wheat MSP increased by ₹150 (₹2425 per quintal)
- Barley MSP increased by ₹130 (₹1980 per quintal)

MSP of Rabi Crops for Marketing Year 2025-26:

- **Wheat:** ₹ 2425 per quintal (Rs. 150 increment)
- **Barley:** ₹ 1980 per quintal (Rs. 130 increase)
- **Mustard:** ₹5950 per quintal (₹ 300 increment)
- **Gram:** ₹ 5650 per quintal (₹ 210 increase)
- **Safflower:** ₹ 5940 per quintal (₹ 140 increase)
- **Masoor dal:** ₹ 6700 per quintal (₹ 275 increase)

Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- MSP is the price at which the government buys grains from farmers. It is a minimum price fixed by the Government.
- MSP is announced twice a year (Rabi and Kharif) on the recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- Note: The recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) are not binding on the central government.
- Currently MSP covers 23 crops, including 7 cereals, 5 pulses, 7 oilseeds, and 4 commercial crops.

Jal Hi Amrit Program

- The central government has recently approved the 'Jal Hi Amrit' program.
- The programme has been launched under the AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) 2.0 to promote efficient reuse of water by States and Union Territories.
- **Ministry concerned:** Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **Objective:** To improve the quality of treated wastewater in urban areas and to promote recycling of treated water.
- **Goal:** To create a platform for competition among cities to ensure that treated water sustainably meets environmental standards and develops peer learning.

Key Provisions:

- **Clean Water Credit System:** It aims to promote competition among cities, develop capacities and obtain treated water of the best quality.
- **Star Rating:** Wastewater plants will be certified as star-rating (3 to 5 stars), which will be valid for 6 months.
- **Performance-based incentives:** Cities and wastewater plants based on star rating/clean water credit will be incentivized.

AMRUT 2.0 Scheme

- This is the next phase of the AMRUT Mission, which started in June 2015, with the objective of ensuring access to water and sewerage connections to every household.
- **Start Date:** October 1, 2021
- **Time Period:** 5 years (from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26)

- **Ministry concerned:** Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **Objective:** To universalize coverage of tap water supply to all households in statutory towns and sewerage/septage management in 500 towns.

Cruise India Mission

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched the 'Cruise India Mission'.
- **Timeline:** 1st October 2024 to 31st March 2029, applicable in 3 phases.
- **Aim:** To boost the potential of cruise tourism in the country.
- **Goal:** To double cruise passenger traffic in the next 5 years.
- **Phase 1 (01 October 2024 to 30 September 2025):** It will focus on studies, master planning, and cruise alliances with neighbouring countries.

Dharti Aba Tribal Village Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)

- The campaign was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 2 October 2024 from Hazaribagh, Jharkhand.
- **Total outlay:** Rs 79,156 crore (Central share: Rs 56,333 crore, State share: Rs 22,823 crore).
- **Target:** To benefit more than 5 crore tribals in 549 districts and 2,911 blocks spread over 63,843 villages in 30 States/UTs.
- **Objective:** To address gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihoods through 25 measures by 17 ministries and ensure sustainable development of tribal communities.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) gets Maharatna Company status

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) was granted the Maharatna status on 12th October 2024.**
- The approval was given by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- HAL has become the 14th Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to receive this status from the Government of India.
- This has increased the operational autonomy and financial capabilities of HAL. Now HAL can invest up to 15% of its net worth in projects and up to ₹5,000 crore in overseas ventures without government approval.

- Criteria for Maharatna Status**
- For Maharatna status, CPSEs must first obtain Navratna status and are required to meet strict financial criteria, including:
 - Average Annual Turnover: Over ₹25,000 crore.
 - Average Annual Net Worth: Over ₹15,000 crore.
 - Average annual net profit: More than ₹5,000 crore in the last three years.

Maharatna Companies of India

Sr. No.	Company Name
1	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
2	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
3	Gas India Limited (GAIL)
4	Coal India Limited (CIL)
5	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)
6	Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)
7	National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
8	Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC)
9	Power Finance Corporation (PFC)
10	Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID)
11	Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
12	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)
13	Oil India Limited (OIL)
14	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

National Mission on Edible Oils and Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds)

- The Union Cabinet has approved the National Mission on Edible Oils and Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) on 3rd October 2024.
- Period: 2024-25 to 2030-31
- Budget: **Rs 10,103 crore**
- **Target:** To make India self-sufficient in oilseeds production in the next seven years.
 - Increase oilseeds production from 39 million metric tonnes in 2022-23 to 69.7 million metric tonnes by 2030-31.
 - It aims to increase domestic edible oil production to 25.45 million metric tonnes by 2030-31, which will meet 72% of the domestic requirement.
- **Crops covered: Increasing production of major oilseed crops like rapeseed mustard, groundnut, soybean, sunflower and sesame.**
- **Secondary sources:** Increasing collection and extraction efficiency from secondary sources such as cotton seeds, rice bran and tree-butter oil.

PMECRG and MAHA-EV Mission

- Two initiatives have been launched by **Anusandhaan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** for recently established research:
 1. Prime Minister’s Early Career Research Grant (**PMECRG**)
 2. Mission for Advancement in High Impact Areas - Electric Vehicles (**MAHA-EV**) Mission.

Prime Minister’s Early Career Research Grant (PMECRG)

- It was initiated under ANRF to support early career researchers and promote scientific research.
- **Objective:** To promote high-quality innovative research, spur technological progress and contribute to India’s global leadership in science and technology.

Attributes:

- Flexible budgeting for ease of research.
- Focus on nurturing young researchers.
- Encouraging groundbreaking discoveries and research excellence.
- To establish India as a leader in science and technology by supporting early career researchers.

Mission for Advancement in High Impact Areas - Electric Vehicles (MAHA-EV) Mission

- It is part of ANRF’s MAHA scheme.
- It is designed to address critical scientific challenges and align with national priorities such as Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Objective:** To develop homegrown EV technology, reduce import dependence, and establish India as a global hub for EV component development.

Attributes:

- Focusing on three important verticals:
 - EV Battery and Cell
 - Power Electronics, Machines and Drives (PEMD)
 - EV charging infrastructure.
- It encourages multi-institutional collaboration.
- Supports India’s shift to electric mobility and promotes domestic innovation in the EV sector.
- Enhances competitiveness and aligns with India’s goal of achieving a developed India by 2047.

Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)

- It was established in the year 2024.
- It was established through the Central Government 'ANRF Act, 2023'.
- Its first governing board meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.
- Ministry: Ministry of Science and Technology.
- **Objective:** To enhance coordination of academic research and industrial applications and align R&D with national priorities.

Work:

- Promote inclusive growth, scientific progress and innovation.
- Facilitate industry-aligned translational research.
- Capacity building and supporting India's global position in key areas.

BharatGen

- BharatGen is the world's first government-funded multilingual and multimodal generative AI model.
- It aims to create high-quality content in Indian languages and make AI technology accessible.
- **Objective:** To develop generative AI technology in Indian languages and revolutionize the delivery of public services and develop AI models keeping in mind the principles of cultural diversity and social equity.

Highlights:

- **Multilingual and Multimodal Models:** Text, speech, and image/audio content in multiple Indian languages.
- The model is trained on data sets based on Indian languages and cultural contexts.
- It is an open-source project, accessible to researchers and developers.
- Through this, an ecosystem of AI research will be created to **promote AI research**.
- **Implementation and Timelines:**
 - Implementation: The project is being implemented by IIT Bombay, with IIIT Hyderabad, IIT Mandi, IIT Kanpur, IIM Indore among other institutions being partners.
 - **Deadline:** AI models to be widely developed and applied by 2026.

Generative AI

- It is a type of artificial intelligence (AI) that generates new and unique content (such as text, images, music, video, etc.) from existing data.
- These AI models are based on algorithms that learn vast amounts of data to recognize patterns and structures and then create the same type of new content.

Example of Generative AI:

- **Text generation:** AI models, which can automatically write articles, poems, or answers.
- **Image generation:** Creating new photos, art, or designs using AI.
- **Speech and Voice Generation:** Virtual assistants who can speak in human-like sounds.

Humsafar Policy

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari launched the event in New Delhi on 7 October 2024.
- **Aim:** To provide world-class facilities on national highways and expressways.
- This policy has been launched to make travelling on National Highways easy, safe and enjoyable.
- In this, a strategy has been made keeping in mind cleanliness and ecology.

- It also focuses on solar energy, waste recycling, soil conservation and water conservation.
- Through the Highway Yatra app, commuters can get information about related services instantly.

SAMARTH (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector)

- The duration of this scheme has been extended till March 2026.
- **Objective:** To train 3 lakh people in textile-related skills and encourage employment generation in the textile industry.
- **Budget:** Rs 495 crore.
- **Key Points:**
 - Covers the entire value chain of textiles except spinning and weaving.
 - The training program and curriculum have been rationalized according to the emerging technology and market needs.
 - As many as 3.27 lakh candidates have been trained under the scheme.

Credit limit increased under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

- In this scheme, the loan limit has been increased from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh. This new limit took effect on October 24, 2024.
- Note: The Finance Minister announced the increase in the loan limit to Rs 20 lakh during the Union Budget 2024-25 on July 23, 2024.
- The announcement includes a new loan category, Tarun Plus, which is exclusively for those who have earlier taken a loan under the Tarun category and repaid it successfully.
- Additionally, the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU) will provide guarantee coverage for these increased loans, further strengthening the government's commitment to nurturing a robust entrepreneurial eco-system in India.

Categories of Mudra Loans

- Under PMMY, collateral free loans upto Rs. 20 lakhs.
- These loans are given for manufacturing, trade and service sectors and income generation in agriculture.
- Mudra loans will now be provided under four categories-
 1. Shishu: Loans up to Rs. 50,000/- are available
 2. Kishore: Loans ranging from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 5 lakh
 3. Tarun: Includes loans ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh
 4. Tarun Plus: Loans ranging from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh are available

Mudra Scheme

- Launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 8th April, 2015.
- MUDRA i.e. Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Limited
- It is a financial institution set up by the Government of India for the development and refinancing of micro unit enterprises under PMMY.
- **Objective:** To provide financial inclusion and support to the socio-economically disadvantaged.

Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card launched

- The Prime Minister launched the Ayushman Vaya Vandana cards under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) on 29th October **2024**.
- It aims to **provide health-care coverage to all people aged 70 years or above**, irrespective of their income and economic status.
- Under this, an annual health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family **will be provided for members of age 70 years or above**.
- In case there are multiple elderly persons in the same household, the cover will be shared among them.
- For this, beneficiaries will have to register through the AB PM-JAY **portal or Ayushman app**, even if they already have an Ayushman card.
- The scheme **will cover about 6 crore people from 4.5 crore families**.
- In this, the insured persons under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (**ESIC**) **will be eligible for the coverage of both ESIC and Ayushman Bharat**, as the premium under ESIC is paid by the employer and the employee rather than the government.

Healthcare projects worth Rs 13,000 crore launched on Dhanvantari Jayanti

- PM Modi announced several major initiatives under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
- **Key Openings and Announcements:**
 - Foundation stone of **21 critical care blocks in five states under Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission laid**.
- 5 states: Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Tamil Nadu and **Rajasthan**.
 - **U-WIN Portal:** To streamline vaccination records of pregnant women and children.
 - Inaugurated: a Central Drug Testing Laboratory **at Bhubaneswar**.
 - To expand the reach of health services in hard-to-reach areas, launched drone services in 11 tertiary care institutions. These are AIIMS Rishikesh (Uttarakhand), AIIMS Bibinagar

(Telangana), AIIMS Guwahati (Assam), AIIMS Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), AIIMS Jodhpur (Rajasthan), AIIMS Patna (Bihar), AIIMS Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh), AIIMS Rae Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh), AIIMS Raipur (Chhattisgarh), RIMS Imphal (Manipur) and AIIMS Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh).

- Establishment of two Central Research Institutes of Yoga and Naturopathy **in Odisha and Chhattisgarh**.
- **Country's Nature Testing Campaign:** Nationwide campaign to increase health awareness among citizens.

Pandemic Fund Project

- The Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched the Pandemic Fund Project on "Strengthening Animal Health Security in India for Pandemic Preparedness and Response".
- **Aim:** To improve India's animal health systems, thereby strengthening the country's defenses against future pandemics.
- It is a \$25 million initiative funded by the G20 Pandemic Fund.
- This initiative will play an important role in reducing the risk of zoonotic diseases spreading from animals to humans.
- It will be implemented in partnership with Asian Development Bank (ADB), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and World Bank.

National Electricity Plan (Transmission)

- Launch: 14 October 2024.
- The scheme has been prepared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) after consultation with various stakeholders.
- The objective: To enable the transmission of renewable energy and take into account the storage systems required in the region.
- Target: To install 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and increase it to over 600 GW by 2032.
- Under this, 47 GW battery energy storage systems and 31 GW pumped storage plants, which will be developed with renewable energy, in the country.
- It also envisages a transmission system to transmit power to green hydrogen/green ammonia manufacturing facilities at coastal locations.
- The National Electricity Plan aims to add 1,91,000 circuit kilometres (ckm) of transmission lines and 1270 gigavolt-amperes (GVA) conversion capacity (at voltage level of 220 kV and above) during a 10-year period from 2022-23 to 2031-32.
- The inter-regional transmission capacity is planned to be increased from the present 119 GW to 143 GW by 2027 and 168 GW by 2032.

- The transmission plan covers cross-border interconnections with Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka as well as possible interconnections with Saudi Arabia, UAE etc.

India's forex reserves cross \$700 bn mark

- India has become the fourth economy in the world to cross USD 700 billion in foreign exchange reserves.
- **Economies with the largest foreign exchange reserves**
 1. China - \$3,626 billion
 2. Japan - \$1,272 billion
 3. Switzerland – \$890 billion
 4. India – \$704.89 billion
- India's foreign exchange reserves are protected and managed by the Reserve Bank of India.
- The reserves include foreign currency assets, special drawing rights (SDRs), and gold reserves.

Number of income tax payers in India crosses 10 crore mark

- According to the latest Time Series data of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the number of income taxpayers in India has crossed 10 crore.
- The number of taxpayers increased from 5.26 crore at the end of assessment year 2013-14 to 10.41 crore at the end of 2023-24, an increase of about **98 per cent**.
- This increase is due to formalization of the economy and expansion of the tax base.
- **Tax-payer:**
 - The Income Tax Department defines a taxpayer as a person who has filed an income tax return for the relevant assessment year (AY).
 - Moreover, those individuals for whom tax at source (TDS) has been deducted in the financial year but have not filed income tax returns are also considered as taxpayers.

4- INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

21st ASEAN-India Summit, 2024

- **Venue:** Vientiane (Lao PDR)
- **Event Date:** October 10, 2024
- **Chaired by:** Laos
- **Members:** All 10 ASEAN members including India (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam)
- The abbreviation for Association of Southeast Asian Nations is ASEAN.
- Prime Minister Modi paid a two-day visit to Laos on October 10-11, 2024.
- During this time he attended the 21st ASEAN-India Summit and the 19th East Asia Summit.
- **Objective:** To meet ASEAN leaders to review the progress of ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and set the future direction of cooperation by Prime Minister Modi on the completion of one decade of India's Act East Policy.
 - The first India-ASEAN Summit was held in 2002 in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia.

PM Modi announces 10-point plan

1. Celebrating 2025 as ASEAN-India Year of Tourism (providing \$5 million by India).
 2. Celebrating the decade of Act-East Policy through several focused activities including Youth Summit, Start-up Festival, Hackathon, Music Festival, ASEAN-India Think Tank Network and Delhi Dialogue.
 3. Organizing ASEAN-India Women Scientific Conclave under the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund.
 4. Doubling the number of scholarships in Nalanda University and provision of new scholarships for ASEAN students in agricultural universities in India.
 5. Review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement up to 2025.
 6. Enhancing Disaster Resilience (\$5 million made available by India).
 7. Starting a new track of Health Ministers towards health.
 8. Initiate a regular mechanism of ASEAN-India Cyber Policy Dialogue towards strengthening digital and cyber policy.
 9. Workshop on Green Hydrogen.
 10. Inviting ASEAN leaders to join the 'Name of a Tree' campaign towards climate resurgence.
- At this conference, all leaders **agreed to create a new ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2026-2030)**.

ASEAN

- **The full name of ASEAN is Association of Southeast Asian Nations** (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).
- **Founded:** 8 August 1967 in Bangkok.
- **Founding members:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.
- India became a summit-level partner of ASEAN in 2002.
- **Aim:**
 - Promote economic growth and prosperity.
 - To maintain peace and stability in the region.

Member Countries:

It includes 10 countries in Southeast Asia:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Indonesia | 2. Thailand |
| 3. Brunei | 4. Lao PDR |
| 5. Myanmar | 6. Cambodia |
| 7. Malaysia | 8. Philippines |
| 9. Viet Nam | 10. Singapore |

First Track-I Cyber Policy Dialogue between India and ASEAN countries held in Singapore

- The first track-one cyber policy dialogue **between India and ASEAN countries** took place in Singapore on October 16, 2024.
- **Key Points:**
 - Situation of cyber attacks, national cyber policy, risk assessment **and recent developments** in the field of information communication technology at the United Nations **were discussed during the dialogue.**

19th East Asia Summit, 2024

- The conference is a major platform for strategic dialogue in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Venue:** Vientiane, Lao PDR
- **Event Date:** October 11, 2024
- **Objective:** To promote peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia.
- **Chaired by:** Laos
- **Members:** Total 18 member countries
 - 10 ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)
 - 8 Other countries (Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia, and USA)

- **First Conference:** The first time this conference was held in Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur) on December 14, 2005.
- The Prime Minister emphasized India's Indo-Pacific vision and ASEAN's central role in the Indo-Pacific regional architecture in the Quad cooperation.
- The Indo-Pacific region should adopt a development-based approach instead of an expansionist approach.
- Countries from East Asia have been invited for the Higher Education Heads of Events Conclave to be held at Nalanda University.

India-Laos Bilateral Dialogue

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Laos Sonexai Sipandon held bilateral talks in Vientiane on 11 October.

3 MOU's signed in the field of Quick Impact Projects

- In the presence of the Prime Ministers of the two countries, MoUs were exchanged in the field of three Quick Impact Projects (QIP) under Defence, Broadcasting, Customs Cooperation and Mekong-Ganga Cooperation.
 - QIP Lao deals with preserving the heritage of Ramayana, restoration of Wat Phra Kiu Buddhist temple with frescoes related to Ramayana and supporting shadow puppetry based on Ramayana in Champasak province.
 - Each of the three QIPs receive Government of India grant assistance of approximately US\$ 50,000.
 - India will also extend a grant assistance of one million US dollars for nutrition improvement in Laos.

23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organisation-Heads of Government Council (SCO-CHG) Meeting

- **Event Date:** 15-16 October 2024
- **Venue:** Islamabad, Pakistan
- **Objective:** The focus of the SCO-CHG meeting is on the trade and economic agenda of the organization.
- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar **participated from India**. This was the first visit by an Indian minister to Pakistan after Sushma Swaraj's visit in 2015.
- The joint communique did not endorse **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**.
- **India opposed the** China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, which India considers its integral part.
- **The next meeting of the SCO** Heads of Government Council will be held in Russia in 2025.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

- **Establishment:** 'Shanghai Five' in June 2001 (formed in 1996 by Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan)
- **Current members:** 8 countries – Kazakhstan, China, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Pakistan, Iran, and Belarus.
- India and Pakistan **became full members of the SCO** in 2017.
- **Headquarters:** Beijing, China.
- **Official languages of SCO:** Russian and Chinese.
- **Main Body:**
 - **SCO Council of State** (the highest decision-making body at the summit level).
- **Rotation System:** The presidency changes alternately between member countries according to the Russian alphabet.

16th BRICS Summit 2024

- **Event:** 22-24 October 2024 in Kazan, Russia.
- **Theme:** 'Strengthening Multilateralism For Just Global Development And Security'
- **Key issues:** strengthening multilateralism, combating terrorism, promoting economic growth and addressing concerns of the global south.
- In the year 2025, the 17th BRICS Summit will be held in Brazil.
- **New Partner Countries:** 13 BRICS countries were made partner countries, although they are not full members. These countries are:
 - **Africa:** Algeria, Uganda, Nigeria
 - **Europe:** Belarus, Türkiye
 - **Latin America:** Bolivia, Cuba
 - **Asia:** Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam
- At the end of this conference, a **joint declaration titled 'Kazan Declaration: Strengthening Multilateralism for Global Development and Security'** was issued.

First BRICS Outreach/BRICS Plus Dialogue

- **Date:** On 24 October 2024, the first-ever BRICS Plus/ Outreach Dialogue **was held during the 16th BRICS Summit**.
- The meeting was hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- **BRICS outreach** refers to countries that are not members of BRICS but are willing to join it in the future.
- **Theme:** 'BRICS and the Global South: Together Building a Better World'.
- **Representation:** 36 countries from Asia, Africa, and Latin America participated.

BRICS

- BRICS is a group of the world's leading emerging economies, which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- The term 'BRIC' was first used by Goldman Sachs chairman **Jim O'Neill** in 2001. It meant Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
- BRIC was established in 2009.
- After the inclusion of South Africa in 2010, it was known as BRICS.
- Current Number of Members: 10 Countries
- **New members in 2024:** Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (incorporated on 1 January 2024).

BRICS Plus

- BRIC Plus includes newly added members from Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.
- **Headquarters:** Shanghai, China.
- **Significance:**
 - 45% of the global population resides in these countries.
 - Contributes 30% to global GDP.
 - 17% share in global trade.

BRICS Bank (New Development Bank - NDB)

- **Founded:** At the 6th BRICS Summit (Fortaleza, Brazil, 2014).
- **Initial capital:** \$100 billion, equal share of all member countries.
- **Headquarters:** Shanghai, China.
- **First Chairman:** KV Kamath of India.
- **Regional Centre:** Johannesburg, South Africa.

7th Inter Governmental Consultations (IGC) between India and Germany

- Event: 25 October 2024 in New Delhi.
- Co-chairs: Recent Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and Chancellor of Germany Olaf Scholz.
- The theme of this conference was – “Growing Together with Innovation, Mobility and Sustainability”.
- German Chancellor Olaf Scholz was on a three-day visit to India from October 24-26, his third visit after becoming chancellor in 2021.

Key Announcements and Agreements

- Germany has announced to increase the number of annual visas for skilled Indian workers from 20,000 to 90,000.
- The leaders of the two countries agreed to establish India as a key partner to diversify supply chains.
- The Green Hydrogen Roadmap for Clean Energy and Sustainable Development was signed by the two countries.

- The two countries also signed an agreement on exchange of classified information and a legal assistance treaty in criminal matters.

Intergovernmental Consultation (IGC)

- Intergovernmental consultations between India and Germany were established in 2011.
- Under this process, Ministers of the two countries discuss various issues concerning their respective regions and present the outcomes of the mutual discussions to the leaders, Chancellors and Prime Ministers of their respective countries.

18th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business:

- Events: 24-26 October 2024 in New Delhi.
- Inauguration: By Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and Chancellor of Germany Olaf Scholz.
- This conference is held every 2 years in the Asia-Pacific region.
- It brings together German business leaders, officials and political representatives on one platform to explore opportunities to boost economic ties between Germany and the Asia-Pacific.

Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu visits India

- President of Maldives **Mohamed Muizzu was on a visit to India from** October 6-10, 2024. This was his first bilateral visit to India.
- **Key Points:**
 - The two leaders launched a number of India-funded projects in the Maldives.
 - The RuPay card, developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was launched in Maldives.
 - The Reserve Bank of India extended a \$400 million currency swap facility to Maldives.
 - India will help Maldives develop a modern commercial port at **Thilafushi Island**.
 - India will set up a new consulate in **Addu town** of Maldives, and Maldives will open its consulate in Bengaluru.
 - In addition, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) entered into a currency swap agreement with the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework 2024-27.
- The Maldives Monetary Authority will **get financial support of \$400 million under the US dollar/euro swap window and Rs 30 billion under the INR swap window.**
 - The agreement **will be valid till June 18, 2027**.
- **Currency Swap Agreement:**
 - A currency swap is an agreement between two countries where one country lends a loan to another country in a certain currency and repayment takes place in a different currency.

- The interest rate charged on such an agreement is usually lower than the interest rate available in the foreign market.

Britain to hand over Chagos Islands to Mauritius

- Britain announced a historic agreement on **October 3, 2024**, to hand over the sovereignty of the Chagos islands located in the Indian Ocean to Mauritius.
- **Key Points:**
 - The Chagos Archipelago is part of the **British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)** of Britain, and was separated from Mauritius since 1965.
 - Britain will maintain a joint UK-US military base on Diego Garcia, the **largest island in the Chagos archipelago**.
 - Chagos Island, **spread over an area of 60** square kilometers, is located **2,200 km** from Mauritius and 1,700 km from Thiruvananthapuram, India.
 - It was part of Mauritius since the 18th century, but in 1965 Britain retained it despite Mauritius independence.
 - Mauritius took it all the way to the **International Court of Justice** for the archipelago's claim and in 2019 the court ruled in favour of Mauritius.
 - The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) also passed a resolution in its support.
- India played **the role of mediator** in returning the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius.
- India supported Mauritius' claim and mediated negotiations between the UK and Mauritius.

Diego Garcia Military Base

- **Joint use by UK-USA:** This military base is important for **defense and intelligence operations in the Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf, and Indo-Pacific region.**

Britain becomes first G7 country to phase out coal-fired power generation

- Britain became the first G7 country to phase out coal-fired power generation by shutting down its last coal hydropower plant, **Uniper's Ratcliffe-on-Soar**, located in the Midlands, England, on **September 30, 2024**.
- **Key Points:**
 - In 2015 Britain planned to close coal plants within the next decade to reach its climate goals.
 - Around 30% of Britain's **electricity came from coal in 2015**, but this dropped to 1% in **2023**.
 - The UK aims **to reach net zero emissions by 2050** and plans **to decarbonise the power sector by 2030**.

India gets approval for joining International Energy Efficiency Hub

- The Union Cabinet of India has approved the signing of the necessary letter of intent for India to join the International Energy Efficiency Hub on **3 October 2024**.
- **Key Points:**
 - This hub is **dedicated to fostering** global cooperation and enhancing **energy efficiency**.
 - This decision reinforces **India's commitment to sustainable development** and is in line with its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - It will help India become a low-carbon economy and promote energy-efficient technologies.

International Energy Efficiency Hub

- The hub is a **global platform to promote energy efficiency**.
- It was proposed by Germany at the **G20 Summit (Hamburg) in 2017** to combat global warming and climate change.
- It was formally established at the International Energy Agency (IEA) **Secretariat in Paris** in 2021.
- There are currently 16 member states: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Russia, Saudi Arabia, United States, and United Kingdom.
- The Government of India has **designated the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** as the Indian implementing agency for the hub.

India signs Host Country Agreement with Global Biofuel Alliance

- India signed the **Host Country Agreement (HCA)** with the **Global Biofuels Alliance**.
- Under this, the GBA Secretariat will be officially established in India.
- The GBA **will get privileges and legal status under the United Nations (Privileges and Immunities) Act 1947**, which will facilitate the smooth functioning of its functions.

Global Biofuels Alliance

- **Establishment:** On September 9, 2023.
- **The G20 Presidency** was attended by the Indian Prime Minister and leaders of eight other countries including Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Italy, Mauritius, Singapore, UAE and USA.
- **Aim:**
 - Increasing availability of biofuel feedstock.
 - Develop a favourable **policy framework**.
 - **Improving the biomass supply chain**.
- Its membership has grown to **27 countries** and **12 international organizations**.

India recalls High Commissioner and other diplomats from Canada

- Following the recent escalation of tensions between India and Canada, India has recalled its High Commissioner and other diplomats from Canada.
- India has **accused Trudeau's** government of failing to ensure its security.
- India has **expelled** six Canadian diplomats and asked them to leave India by October 19.
- After the murder of Khalistani terrorist **Hardeep Singh Nijjar** in 2023, tensions between the two countries escalated further due to Canada designating the Indian High Commissioner as a "Person of Interest".

India becomes affiliate member of International Medical Devices Regulatory Forum (IMDRF)

- As an affiliate member, India **will participate in the open sessions** of IMDRF, where it will exchange information on technical topics **with other regulators**.
- India will use **IMDRF documents** for its medical device regulatory framework.
- IMDRF comprises the US, Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, Brazil, Russia, China, Singapore, South Korea, and the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.

Switzerland joins European air defence initiative Sky Shield

- Switzerland has **decided to join the European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI)**.
- Which was launched with the aim of strengthening Europe's air defenses under the leadership of Germany.
- **Key Points:**
 - Switzerland, a **neutral country**, changed its **policy following Russia's invasion of Ukraine**.
 - **ESSI** aims to keep Europe safe from **air attacks** and jointly buy out its **air and missile defence systems**.
 - **Launched by Germany in 2022**, the ESSI aims to make the continent **less vulnerable** to air attacks.
 - **21 countries including Britain, Turkey** have signed this agreement.

Spanish Prime Minister's Visit to India:

- **Pedro Sanchez** made his first official visit to India after becoming Prime Minister in 2018.
- He became the first Spanish Prime Minister to visit India **in the last 18 years**.
- Earlier in 2006, Spanish Prime Minister **Jose Luis Rodríguez Zapatero** had visited India.

Construction of C-295 military aircraft in Vadodara (Gujarat)

- Pedro Sanchez along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Tata Aircraft Complex for the manufacture of C-295 military aircraft **in Vadodara (Gujarat) on October 28, 2024**.
- It is **India's first private sector final assembly line facility** to manufacture military aircraft, where **the C295 aircraft** will be manufactured.
- The complex is a **joint venture of** Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Airbus Defence and Space, Spain.
- The 40 aircraft will be built in Vadodara by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd, and Spain-based Airbus will deliver 16 aircraft directly.
- Under this project, a total of **56 C-295 military aircraft** will be produced, of which the first Made-in-India aircraft **will be ready by September 2026**.
- **The C295 aircraft** is a medium-sized tactical transport aircraft, designed by the Spanish aerospace company CASA.
- It can also be used for **medical emergency, disaster response** and **maritime patrol** duty.

Agreements signed between India and Spain

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote cooperation in rail transport.
- Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters.
- Cultural Exchange Programme for 2024-2028.
- **Consulate Establishment:** Spain will set up its consulate in Bengaluru and India will set up its consulate in Barcelona, Spain.
- **Fast Track Mechanism:** To facilitate Indian investments in Spain and Spanish investments in India.
 - In India, the mechanism **will be under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** of the Union Ministry of Commerce and in Spain under the **Directorate General of International Trade and Investment**.
- **Formation of a Joint Commission** under the **Audio Visual Co-production Agreement**.
- **To celebrate the year 2026 as the India-Spain Year of Culture, Tourism and AI**.
- The Prime Minister of Spain attended the India-Spain Business Summit with Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari **in Mumbai on 29 October 2024**.
 - The business summit was organised by DPIIT, CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) and **Spanish trade and investment body, ICEX**.

Brazil will not join the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

- **Brazil has announced not to join China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).**
- After India, Brazil is the **second BRICS country** which has refused to join the initiative.
- Brazil will cooperate with Chinese investors in alternative ways.
- India had refused to join the initiative by becoming the **first country to oppose China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).**
- The Belt and Road Initiative was launched **by China in 2013** as a global infrastructure development strategy.

Digital Infrastructure Development Initiative Framework of the US, Japan and South Korea (Digi Framework)

- The United States, Japan, and South Korea announced a **new framework** with the Indian private sector to support **digital infrastructure** in India.
- The framework includes **the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and the Import-Export Bank of Korea (Korea Eximbank).**
- **Aim:** To support projects such as **5G, Open RAN, submarine cable, optical fibre networks,** data centers, smart cities, e-commerce, AI, and quantum technology **in partnership with India to advance shared priorities.**

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in India

- India has **built three main baseline DPIs** through the **India Stack**:
 - **Digital Identity** (Aadhaar)
 - **Real-time fast payouts** (UPI)
 - **Data Sharing Architecture** (Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture)

President Droupadi Murmu visits Algeria, Mauritania and Malawi

- President **Droupadi Murmu** visited three African countries - Algeria, Mauritania, and Malawi from 13-19 October 2024.
- She is the first Indian President to make an official visit to these three countries.

Algeria

- In the first leg of the visit, President Murmu arrived in Algiers (**capital of Algeria**) on October 13.
- He met with **Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune** at the **El Mouradiya Palace** and discussed bilateral issues.
- **Honors:** **Sidi Abdella University of Science and Technology Pole** awarded her an **honorary doctorate in political science.**

Mauritania

- **In the second leg of the visit,** President Murmu visited **Mauritania.**

- **Held meeting with** President of Mauritania Mohamed Auld Ghazjuani in which four Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) were signed between the two countries:
 - **Promotion of international peace and security.**
 - **Cooperation between foreign relations training institutes.**
 - **Visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and official passports.**
 - **Cultural Exchange Programme from 2024 to 2028.**
- Mauritania is an Islamic country located on **the coast of the Atlantic Ocean** in Africa.

Malawi

- **In the last leg of the visit,** President Murmu reached Malawi on October 17.
- She held discussions with **Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of Malawi.**
- **Agreements:** Four MoUs were signed between the two countries, including:
 - Art & Culture
 - Youth Affairs
 - Sports
 - Pharmaceutical collaborations were involved.
- Malawi is located in southeastern Africa, surrounded by **Tanzania, Mozambique, and Zambia.**

Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara Agreement extended for 5 years

- **India and Pakistan** on 22 October 2024 have extended the Kartarpur Corridor **Agreement for another five years** to facilitate **pilgrims to visit Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara.**
- **Aim:** To facilitate Indian pilgrims **to visit Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara, Narowal (Pakistan).**
- The agreement was signed on 24 October 2019, which has now been extended till 2029.

Kartarpur Corridor

- It **connects Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur (Pakistan) with Gurdwara Dera Baba Nanak (India).**
- The Indian side includes a **4.1 km long four-lane highway from Dera Baba Nanak to the border and a state-of-the-art passenger terminal building (PTB).**
 - **Kartarpur village is located on the west bank of river Ravi in Pakistan.**
- **Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib** is located in Pakistan's Narowal district, about **4.5 km from Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district of Punjab,** near the international border.
- Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji spent the last 18 years of his life here.
- The Kartarpur Sahib Corridor facilitates visa-free travel of pilgrims from the Indian border to Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan.

Israel becomes 69th member of Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- Israel is the newest non-regional member of the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.
- The ADB Board of Governors approved Israel's accession in April 2022.
- **Asian Development Bank (ADB):**
 - **Founded** since: 1966
 - **Headquarters:** Mandaluyong, Philippines
 - **Current President:** Masatsugu Asakawa

Operation 'Days of Repentance'

- Israel carried out airstrikes on Iran's Tehran and military bases on 26 October **2024**. It **was named Operation 'Days of Repentance'**.
- More than 100 **fighter aircraft and F-35 stealth fighters were used in this attack**. All aircraft returned safely to their base.
- This attack was done in response to Iran's missile attack on Israel.

WHO certifies Egypt malaria-free

- WHO certified Egypt malaria-free on 20th October **2024**.
- A country is declared malaria-free only if it is free of malaria infection by Anopheles mosquitoes for three consecutive years.
- In Egypt, the malaria threat increased after the construction of the Aswan Dam **in the 1960s**, but it was later "fully controlled".

'Business Ready (B-READY)' project

- The World Bank Group has **launched a new data collection and analysis project called Business Ready (B-READY)**, which assesses the business and investment environment.
- B-READY will **replace the former** Doing Business Index released by the World Bank Group.
- It helps in inclusive and sustainable growth to encourage private investment, **generate employment and improve productivity**.
- B-READY is based on three pillars:
 1. **Regulatory Framework**
 2. **Public Services**
 3. **Operational Efficiency**
- The first set of rankings released in 2024 covers **50 countries**.
- Hungary, Estonia, and Singapore topped the **regulatory framework, public services, and operational efficiency** pillars, respectively.
- India **will join this ranking in 2026**.

COP 16 Biodiversity Summit

- **Event:** 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali (Colombia).
- **Objective:** To stop the rapid destruction of nature.
- This is the 16th meeting of the signatory countries to the 1992 Convention **on Biological Diversity**.
- India launched the Revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) along with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) at COP-16.
- The CAIIL Fund was established to ensure fair and equitable distribution of benefits arising from the use of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources.
- At least 50% of the CAIIL Fund will focus on the self-identified needs of indigenous peoples and local communities, especially women and youth.
- Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF) was launched at COP-16 with China's contribution of USD 200 million.

Digital platform called Musaned

- Saudi Arabia has **announced the launch of a digital platform called Musaned** for foreign workers.
- This will ensure safer working conditions for workers.
- The platform will benefit workers from **India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Sri Lanka**, and many other Asian and African countries.
- **Under the Musaned platform**, foreign workers will be able to check their employment contracts and get updates.
- It aims to resolve labour disputes efficiently and can be linked to **contract insurance and health benefits**.

First Overseas Campus of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

- The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) will open its first **overseas campus** in Dubai.
- The complex **will be located at the India Pavilion in Dubai's Expo City**.
- IIFT and Expo City Dubai will collaborate on research projects.
- IIFT will start short and medium-term training programmes by early **2025**.

5-SPACE & DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

Space Technology

Navy 's second VLF radar station

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the **foundation stone of the Indian Navy's second Very Low Frequency (VLF) naval station in Vikarabad district of Telangana.**
- The station will be operational by 2027 and will enhance communications with Indian Navy **ships and submarines.**
- The station will help secure **the transmission of command orders** and provide critical support to the Indian Armed Forces.
- It will be India's second VLF station; The first station, **INS Kattabomman**, has operated at Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu since 1990.

Europa Clipper Mission

- US space agency **NASA** has launched the **Europa Clipper mission** to search for the possibilities of life on **Jupiter** and its moon **Europa.**
- The Europa Clipper mission aims to study Europa's **icy surface** and its **subsurface ocean.**
- It was launched via a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket **from NASA's Kennedy Space Center.** It is the largest spacecraft built by NASA, which will study the oceans of another planet.
- The mission aims to determine if Europa has the conditions to support life.
- Europa** is about the size of Earth's moon, but evidence of a vast saline ocean in its interior came from NASA's Galileo mission in the 1990s.

Moonlight Lunar Communications and Navigation Services (LCNS)

- The European Space Agency (ESA)** has launched the **Moonlight Lunar Communications and Navigation Services (LCNS)** programme.
- It is a group of telecommunications and navigation services dedicated to Joe Moon.
- The MoonLite programme aims to establish **Europe's first constellation** of satellites to the Moon.
- The constellation will be made up of five lunar satellites (one for high data rate communication and four for navigation).
- This satellite constellation **will connect to Earth via three ground stations, which will form a data network spanning 400,000 km.**

Rs. 1000 crore venture capital fund for space sector

- The Union Cabinet gave approval under the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (**IN-SPACe**).
- Objective:** To promote and monitor private sector participation.
- It will be for a period of **five years from the date of operation of the fund.**
- Under this, **the annual allocation** will be from Rs 150 to 250 crore.
- Investment horizon:** Rs. 10-30 crore for the initial development phase and Rs. 30-60 crore for the subsequent development phase.
- This fund will support around **40 startups.**

Defence Technology

India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)

- India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) was launched from the Shipbuilding Centre (SBC) in Visakhapatnam on 16 October 2024.
- It's **code name is S4*.**
- Earlier, India's second SSBN, INS Arighat, was launched in August 2024.
- The third SSBN, INS Aridman, is undergoing sea trials and will be commissioned next year.
- The Centre's Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has recently approved the construction of two domestically built nuclear-powered **attack submarines (SSNs) to strengthen deterrence capability in the Indo-Pacific region.**
 - INS Chakra-S1 (India's first nuclear attack submarine)
 - INS Arihant-S2
 - INS Arighat-S3
 - INS Aridhman-S4
 - The name of the recently launched submarine is S4* and its official name has not yet been determined.

Key Features of S4*

- About 75% of the content on **the S4* is indigenous.**
- Both the S4 and S4* have better reactor performances than the previous S2 and S3.
- The S4* can carry several **K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs).**
- INS Arihant can carry K-15 nuclear missiles with a range of 750 km, while the S4* can carry advanced K-4 SLBMs with a range of 3,500 km.

Nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine/ship submersible ballistic nuclear (SSBN)

- Similar to SSNs they are also powered by nuclear reactors, but they are designed to launch long-range ballistic missiles (SLBMs) from vertical launch systems.
- They serve as a strategic deterrent and are part of the atomic.

Submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs)

- SLBMs are a type of ballistic missile that can be launched from submarines.
- Modern SLBMs are usually missiles with a MIRV, with several warheads, each capable of hitting different targets.
- The 'K' category of missiles (code name given after Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam) are India's indigenously developed SLBMs.
- The K-15 Sagarika (750 km) and K-4 (3500 km) are K-class missiles.

Contract signed for the purchase of 31 MQ-9B Predator drones

- India and the US have signed a contract for the purchase of 31 MQ-9B Predator drones from American defence company **General Atomics** on October **14, 2024**.
- The deal is worth around **\$4 billion** and is aimed at enhancing the **combat capabilities** of the Indian Army.
- The agreement includes 15 **Sea Guardian drones for the Indian Navy** and 16 Sky Guardian drones for the **Indian Army and Air Force (IAF)**.
- **The MQ-9B Predator drone can fly at speeds of up to 400 kilometers per hour** and it can fly for more than **36 hours** at altitudes of more than **40,000 feet**.
- These drones **can be equipped with** Hellfire air-to-ground missiles **and** smart bombs, which will increase India's **firepower**.

New missile test range in Andhra Pradesh

- The new missile test range **in the country will be set up in Nagayalanka, Andhra Pradesh**.
- It was recently approved **by** the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).
- **Objective:** To strengthen defense capabilities, especially conduct tests of tactical missile systems.
- It will conduct trials of surface-to-air missiles, anti-tank missiles, **and other projects under the** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Note: The Indian Army on the northern border has recently established a new high-altitude first firing range in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh. This maneuver range is important for tactical warfare exercises.

Commissioning of 2 Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) vessels

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on **October 28, 2024, simultaneously launched two** Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) 'Adamyra' and 'Akshar' **built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**.
- Both these ships **are made of more than 60 per cent indigenous materials**.
- These advanced FPVs will assist the ICG **in its primary role of security, surveillance, control,** and surveillance, as well as the protection of offshore assets and island territories.
- Features of FPV:
 - **Length:** 52m
 - **Width:** 8m
 - **Max speed:** 27 knots
 - **Propulsion system:** controllable pitch propeller-based
 - **Displacement:** 320 tons

Three successful flight tests of VSHORADS missiles

- India conducted three successful flight tests of indigenously developed Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (**VSHORADS**) **missiles at the Pokhran firing range in Rajasthan in October 2024**.
- These trials **were carried out by the** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), aimed at countering aerial threats such as enemy aircraft, drones and other short-range targets.
- The tests were aimed at enhancing the capability of the Indian Armed Forces and providing them with modern air defence systems.
- Currently, the Indian armed forces rely on **Russian Igla missiles** for short-range air defense, but the VSHORADS system is expected to fill this shortcoming.

Multi-purpose vessel 'Samarthak'

- **The first ship of the** multi-purpose vessel project built by L&T Shipyard **for the Indian Navy** was launched on October 14, 2024, christened '**Samarthak**'.
- Two multi-purpose vessels **are being built** under this project, for which the contract was signed on March 25, 2022.
- These ships **will act as platforms** for towing ships, launching and recovering various targets, **operating** unmanned autonomous vehicles **and testing indigenous weapons and sensors**.
- The maximum speed of the vessel **will be 15** nautical miles, and its size will be **106 meters long** and **16.8 meters wide**.

BEL IAI Aerosystems Private Limited

- It is a **Joint Venture Company (JVC)**.
- It is a joint venture between India's **Navratna defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** and **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**.
- The company **will be a single contact point (SPOC)** to provide long-term **product support** for medium-range surface-to-air missile (MRSAM) systems.

- The purpose of the JVC is to provide technical and **maintenance support**.
- MRSAM is an advanced air and missile defence system, jointly developed by IAI and DRDO.

WHO confirms elimination of Trachoma in India

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has confirmed that India has **successfully eliminated a bacterial infection called trachoma** as a public health problem.
- This infection affects the eyes and its eradication is a major health achievement for India.
- India has now become the third country in South-East Asia region **after Nepal and Myanmar** to eliminate trachoma.
- Moreover, India has now joined the list of 19 countries that have achieved this feat before.
- Trachoma can be prevented, but the blindness it causes is difficult to treat.
- Currently, trachoma is responsible for blindness in about 1.9 million people in the world.
- Trachoma infection is caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

Murine typhus disease

- Recently, **murine typhus** was confirmed in a **75-year-old** man in Kerala who had recently **returned from a trip to Vietnam and Cambodia**.
- This is the first case of this rare disease in Kerala.
- **Murine typhus** is an infectious disease caused by the **flea-borne bacterium Rickettsia typhi**.
- The disease is spread by the bite of an infected flea and is also called **endemic typhus, flea-borne typhus, or flea-borne spotted fever**.
- Rodents such as rats and mongoose are the main hosts of this disease, and it can also be found in pets such as cats and dogs.
- Once a flea is infected, it is capable of spreading the disease throughout its life.
- Murine typhus does not spread from person to person or from person to flea.
- This disease is mainly found in coastal tropical and subtropical regions.
- In India, its cases have been reported in the Northeast, Madhya Pradesh, and Kashmir.
- Its symptoms are: fever, headache, body ache, joint pain, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain.

Exercise KAZIND-2024

- It is a joint military exercise between India and Kazakhstan.
- Its 8th edition was held in Auli, Uttarakhand from 30 September to 13 October 2024.
- 120 soldiers of Kumaon Regiment battalion are participating in this exercise.
- The main aim of this exercise is to enhance the joint military capability of the two sides for counter-terrorism operations under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

Malabar 2024 Exercise

- It is a multinational maritime exercise. It included India, the United States, Japan and Australia.
- It was conducted at Visakhapatnam under the aegis of Eastern Naval Command.
- Its 28th edition took place from 08 October to 18 October 2024.
- The Malabar exercise started in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the US, which later joined Japan and Australia.
- Malabar 2024 features live weapon firing, complex surface, air and anti-submarine warfare exercises, and joint maneuvers.

Naseem-Al-Bahr Naval Exercise 2024

- It is a bilateral naval exercise of India and Oman.
- The exercise was conducted off the coast of Goa from 13 to 18 October 2024 in two phases:
 - Port phase from 13 to 15 October 2024.
 - After that the sea phase will start.

SIMBEX 2024

- It is a naval exercise held between India and Singapore.
- It was conducted in at Visakhapatnam from 23-29th October 2024 [Harbour Phase (23-25 October) and Sea Phase (28-29 October) in the Bay of Bengal].
- History: Simbex started as the 'Exercise Lion King' in 1994.

Exercise Vajra Prahar 2024

- It is a joint special forces exercise between the Indian Army and the US Army.
- The 15th edition of Vajra Prahar will be held from 2nd to 22nd November 2024 at Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho, USA.
- This is the second exercise between the Indian and US Army in the year 2024, with the first being Yudh Abhyas 2024 held in Rajasthan in September 2024.

'Sagar Kavach'

- The Indian Coast Guard conducted the coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' off the coast of Gujarat and the Union Territory of Daman and Diu on 16-17 October 2024.
- Coordinated by Coast Guard Regional Headquarters, Gandhinagar, this was the second edition of this year.
- The objective was to enhance maritime and coastal security preparedness by validating existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Various stakeholders including Indian Navy, State Police, Marine Police, Border Security Force (BSF), National Security Guard (NSG), Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB), Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Port Authorities actively participated in the event.

6- SPORTS

Mumbai won the Irani Cup for the 15th time

- On October 5, Ajinkya Rahane-led Mumbai defeated the Rest of India (ROI) at the Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow to win the Irani Cup title.
- Mumbai won the 15th Irani Cup on the basis of a first-innings lead over Rest of India.
- Mumbai won their last Irani Cup 27 years ago during the 1997-98 season
- Sarfaraz Khan was adjudged Player of the Match in this match.
- The Irani Cup is a first-class domestic cricket tournament, it was held at the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow from 1-5 October 2024.
- Note: Mumbai won the Ranji Trophy title for a record 42nd time in March 2024.

New Zealand women's team won the T20 Cricket World Cup 2024 title

- New Zealand defeated South Africa by 32 runs on October 20 to win their maiden Women's T20 World Cup title.
- It was the first time New Zealand had won either the men's or women's World Cup title.
- New Zealand gave a target of 159 runs and the South African team scored 126 runs for 9 wickets.
- Amelia Kerr was adjudged Player of the Series and Player of the Match.
- Earlier, New Zealand played the final in 2009 and 2010, but could not win.
- The first edition of the Women's T20 World Cup was held in England in 2009.
- Originally the tournament was to be held in Bangladesh but due to political instability it was shifted to UAE.
- There have been a total of nine editions as of 2024, with Australia being the most successful team, having won the title a record 6 times (2010, 2012, 2014, 2018, 2020, 2023).
- England (2009), West Indies (2016) and New Zealand (2024) have won one title each.

India-Bangladesh Test Series

- India defeated Bangladesh in the Kanpur Test match and won the Test series 2-0.
- India defeated Bangladesh by seven wickets in the Kanpur Test match (27 September-1 October 2024).
- Earlier, India defeated Bangladesh by 280 runs in the Chennai Test (19-22 September 2024).
- India is the fifth country in the world to win more Test matches after Australia, England, Pakistan and South Africa.

- India has played 581 Test matches, won 180 and lost 178 Test matches.
- Australia is the most successful team in world cricket, winning 414 matches in 866 Test matches, with 232 losses. Australia is followed by England with 397 and West Indies with 183 matches.
- Ravichandran Ashwin was declared Player of the Series for his 114 runs and 11 wickets in this series.
- Ravichandran Ashwin equalled Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's record of winning 11 Player of the Series awards in the Test series.

Asian Table Tennis Championships

- India won a total of three medals at the 27th Asian Table Tennis Championships 2024.
- The tournament was held in Astana, Kazakhstan from 6th to 13th October 2024.
- India won a historic bronze medal in women's doubles. The Indian pair of Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukherjee lost to the Japanese pair of Miwa Harimoto and Miyu Kihara in the semifinals.
- The Indian women's team also won a bronze medal in the team event. The team consisted of Manika Batra, Ayhika Mukherjee, and Sutirtha Mukherjee.
- This is the first time India has won a medal in both women's doubles and women's team events.
- In the men's section, the Indian team of Achanta Sharath Kamal, Manav Thakkar, and Harmeet Desai lost to Chinese Taipei in the semifinals, and won the bronze medal.

World Pickleball Championship to be held in India

- It will be organized from 12 to 17 November 2024 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The championship will be hosted by the All India Pickleball Association (AIPA).
- The championship will be held in India for the first time.
- The competition was earlier held in Vietnam and Bali.
- Pickleball involves the factors of tennis, badminton, and table tennis. The All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) is the governing body of pickleball in India.
- It was founded in 2007 by Sunil Walawalkar.

Akhil Sharon

- Akhil Sheoran won the bronze medal in the men's 50m rifle 3-positions event at the ISSF World Cup Final on October 16.
- Hungary's Istvan Peni won the gold medal while Czech Republic's Jiri Privertsky won the silver medal.

- Earlier, Sonam Maskar won the silver medal in the women's 10m air rifle for India.
- The ISSF World Cup 2024 was held from October 13 to 18 in New Delhi, India.

ISSF Junior World Championships 2024

- It was the fourth edition of the ISSF Junior World Championships
- It took place from 26 September to 7 October 2024 in Lima, the capital of Peru
- The ISSF Junior World Championships 2024 were organised by the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF).
- India topped the medal tally with a total of 21 medals, which included 13 gold, 2 silver and 6 bronze.
- Norway finished second with 10 medals, including 4 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze.

ISSF Junior World Cup 2025

- The ISSF Junior World Cup 2025 will be held in India.

Deepika Kumari

- In the Archery World Cup Final in Tlaxcala, Mexico, India's Deepika Kumari won the silver medal in the women's recurve category.
- She was defeated 0-6 by China's Li Jiaman in the final.
- Deepika defeated Mexico's Alejandra Valencia to enter the final.
- This is the fifth time that Deepika Kumari finished runner-up in the Archery World Cup.

Women's Singles Bendigo International Challenge Badminton Tournament

- India's Taniya Hemanth won the women's singles title by defeating Taipei's Tung Siu-tong.
- Event: in Bendigo, Australia.
- It was Tanya's third international title and first of the year.
- Tanya was runner-up at the Polish Open and Azerbaijan International in 2024.
- She won the title at India International in 2022 and Iran Fajr International in 2023.
- In the men's doubles final, the Indian pair of Hariharan Amsakrunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapati finished runners-up.

Arjun Erigaisi wins WR Chess Masters Cup

- Arjun Erigaisi won the WR Chess Masters Cup by defeating Maxim Vachier-Lagrave in the final.
- Arjun is now leading the FIDE circuit.
- He will compete in the European Chess Club Cup, starting in Serbia.

Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar retires

- Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar announced her retirement from professional competition on October 7.

- Dipa is the first Indian female gymnast to compete in the Olympic Games.
- She won the gold medal at the 2024 Asian Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships, she is the first Indian to win gold in this competition.
- She missed out on a medal in the vault event at the 2016 Rio Olympics.
- Dipa is the first Indian to win a gold medal at an international gymnastics competition, having won the gold medal in the women's vault event at the 2018 Artistic Gymnastics World Cup.
- Dipa won a bronze medal in the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games and a bronze medal in the 2018 World Cup.
- Deepa was awarded the Padma Shri (2017) and Arjuna Award (2015).
- She was awarded the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna (then: Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award) in the year 2016.

38th National Games to be held in Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand has been awarded the hosting rights of the 38th Summer National Games by the Indian Olympic Association.
- The 37th National Games were held in Goa from 25th September to 9th November 2023.
- In addition, the Winter Games will be held for the first time outside Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in Uttarakhand, from 28 January to 14 February 2025.

16th Women's Indian Open to be held in India

- It will be organized in Gurugram, Haryana.
- 114 players from 31 countries will participate in this tournament.
- 27 players from India will participate in the competition.
- Key Players: Hitashi Bakshi, Vaani Kapoor, Gaurika Bishnoi, Amandeep Drall, and Ridhima Dilawari.
- It is India's most prestigious women's golf event. It was started in 2007.
- In 2016, Aditi Ashok became the first Indian to win the Women's Indian Open.

WTT Feeder Cagliari 2024

- Event: Italy.
- India's Yashaswini Ghoshal and Kritika Roy won the women's doubles title.
- The Indian duo defeated South Korea's Yu Sewu and Kim Hyun 3-1 in the final.

Coco Gauff wins WTA China Open tennis competition

- 20-year-old American tennis star Coco Gauff won the WTA China Open tennis competition by defeating Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic.
- The competition was held in Beijing, China and is a WTA 1000 tournament.

Aryna Sabalenka wins WTA Wuhan 1000 singles title

- World No. 2 female tennis player, Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, defeated world No. 7, China's Zheng Qinwen, to win her third consecutive WTA Wuhan 1000 singles title.
- The competition was held in Wuhan, China from October 7-13.

Janik Sinner wins ATP Shanghai Masters 1000 singles title

- World number one men's tennis player Jannik Sinner of Italy won the ATP Shanghai Masters 1000 singles title by defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the final.
- The competition was held in Shanghai, China from October 2 to 13.

Pankaj Advani wins Singapore Open Billiards Championship

- Top Indian billiards player Pankaj Advani won the Singapore Open billiards title by defeating Singapore's Jadon Ong.
- Pankaj Advani is the only player in the world to win world titles in all formats of billiards and snooker.

Rafael Nadal

- Spain's Rafael Nadal announced his retirement on October 10.
- He will retire after the Davis Cup final in November.
- Nadal has won 22 Grand Slam titles in his career, the second most titles among men after Novak Djokovic (24 Grand Slams).
- Nadal has earned the nickname of 'King of Clay', as he won the most singles titles at the French Open with 14.
- Nadal's 22 Grand Slam titles include 14 French Opens, 4 US Opens, 2 Wimbledon, and 2 Australian Opens.

The first Kho Kho World Cup will be held in India in 2025

- The first Kho Kho World Cup by the Kho-Kho Federation of India (KKFI) will be held in India in 2025.
- The event will feature 24 countries from 6 continents, with 16 men's and 16 women's teams participating.
- The federation aims to register at least 50 lakh players before the tournament.
- The aim of this World Cup is to take this indigenous Indian game to the international level.

Former Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal retires

- Former Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal announced her retirement from the game on 24 October 2024.

- Rani Rampal is the first Indian woman hockey player to have a stadium named after her.
- The stadium of the Modern Coach Factory of Indian Railways in Rae Bareilly has been renamed as Rani Girls Hockey Turf.
- Rani has been one of India's most successful hockey players.
- Under her leadership, the women's hockey team at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics was placed fourth, the best ever performance.
- **Honours:**
 - Major Dhyanchand Khel Ratna Award (2020).
 - Padma Shri (the country's fourth highest civilian award, 2020).
- Note: Rani Rampal has recently been appointed as the national coach of sub-junior women players.

In sports, Arjuna Award (lifetime) will replace Dhyanchand Lifetime Award

- The Union Sports Ministry on 24 October 2024 decided to discontinue the Dhyanchand Lifetime Achievement Award from this year.
- In its place, the Arjuna Award will be instituted, which will be given for lifetime contribution to sports development.
- Instituted in 2002 in the name of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand, the Dhyanchand Lifetime Award is given to the players participating in sports like Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.
- Note: In the year 2023, Manjusha Kanwar (former shuttler), Vineet Kumar (former hockey player) and Kavita Selvaraj (Kabaddi player) were honoured with the Dhyanchand Lifetime Achievement Award.

Ballon d'Or 2024 awards

- Event: Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris, France (October 28, 2024)
- Men's category: Spain and Manchester City's Rodri won the Ballon d'Or award.
 - Rodri played a key role in Manchester City winning the English Premier League title and Spain's European Championship victory.
- Women's Section: Aitana Bonamatí won the women's Ballon d'Or to help Barcelona Femini and Spain team win the World Cup.
- Best club in men's category: Real Madrid
- Best Women's Club: Barcelona Femini
- Best goalkeeper (Men): Emiliano Martínez
- Best young player: Lamin Yamal
- Gerd Muller Award (most goals): Harry Kane and Kylian Mbappé (52 goals)

7- AWARDS AND HONORS

Nobel Prize 2024

Nobel Prize 2024		
Field	Conqueror	Contribution
Literature	Han Kang (South Korea) (Only female winner of the year)	Delivered for profound poetic prose. Her writings highlight the historical trauma and fragility of human life. Han Kang is the first South Korean writer to win this prize.
Peace	Japanese organization Nihon Hidankyo	Campaigns against nuclear weapons. This organization is also called Hibakusha, which strives to free the world from nuclear weapons.
Economics	Daron Acemoglu (USA), Simon Johnson (USA), and James A. Robinson (USA)	Provided for "the study of the formation of institutions and influencing prosperity". Their study helped in better understanding the relationship between institutions and economic development.
Medical or Surgical Treatment	Victor Ambrose (USA) and Gary Ruvakun (USA)	For the discovery of microRNAs and its role in gene regulation
Physical Science	John Hopfield (USA) and Geoffrey Hinton (British-Canadian)	For "Baseline discoveries and inventions enabling machine learning with Artificial Neural Network (ANN)"
Chemistry	Demis Hassabis (UK), John Jumper (USA) and David Baker (USA)	Demis Hasbys, John Jumper: To develop techniques that predict protein structure David Baker: For Computational Protein Design

Nobel Prize

- Nobel laureates receive a diploma, gold medal, and a cash prize of one million dollars.
- The awards are presented every year on December 10 during ceremonies held in Stockholm and Oslo, which commemorate the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.
- Note: The Nobel for Economics is officially known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel.
- The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo (Norway) while all other Nobel Prizes are awarded in Stockholm (Sweden).
- Nobel laureates are selected by four institutions
 - The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences – Physics, Chemistry and Economic Sciences
 - The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute – Medical Sciences
 - The Swedish Academy – Literature
 - The Norwegian Nobel Committee – Peace Prize

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das honored as top central banker

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das was ranked as the top central banker by Global Finance magazine for the second consecutive year.
- Under this, Shaktikanta Das was given an A+ grade in the Central Bank Report Card 2024.
- The award was given at a ceremony held on 26 October 2024, Washington DC, USA.
- Apart from Shaktikanta Das, Denmark's Christian Kettle Thomson and Switzerland's Thomas Jordan were also ranked in the A+ category.
- This grading criterion was based on inflation control, economic growth, currency stability, and interest rate management.
- Note: Recently America's Global Finance Magazine recognized State Bank of India as the best bank in India for 2024.

Bibhav Kumar Talukdar was honoured with 'The Harry Maisel Award'

- Bibhav Kumar Talukdar from Assam was awarded 'The Harry Maisel Award'.
- It was given by the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The award was given during the 5th IUCN SSC Leaders' Meeting in Abu Dhabi.
- Bibhav Kumar was given this award for his significant contribution to the conservation of species, especially leadership in SSC.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar gets Fiji's highest civilian award

- Fiji honoured Sri Sri Ravi Shankar with the highest civilian award.
- This award has been given to him for uplifting the human spirit and connecting diverse communities in peace and harmony.
- Ratu William M. Katonivere, President of the Republic of Fiji, conferred on him the title of 'Honorary Officer of Fiji'.
- Sri Sri Ravi Shankar founded the 'Art of Living Foundation' in 1981, which aims to spread happiness and harmony by service works in the areas of mental health, education, environment and women and youth empowerment.

Sakharov Prize of Europe

- The European Parliament awarded its annual Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to Venezuelan opposition leaders Maria Corina Machado and Edmundo Gonzalez.
- The award was given for representing the people of Venezuela in the fight to restore freedom and democracy.
- Edmundo and Maria fought for free, fair and peaceful transfer of power in Venezuela.
- The Sakharov Prize was established in 1988 and is given to individuals and organizations defending human rights and democracy.
- In 2023 the award was given to Mahsa Amini and the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement in Iran.

SAIL gets SHRM-HR Excellence Award

- Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) was awarded the SHRM-HR Excellence Award.
- The award was given in the following categories:
 - Inclusion, equity, and excellence in diversity.
 - Excellence in managing a distributed workforce.
- The award was given for the excellent HR practices and initiatives being undertaken in SAIL.
- Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)
 - Founded in: 1954.
 - Undertaking: A Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Steel.
 - Headquarters: New Delhi.
 - India's largest steel producing company.

MIDORI Awards 2024

- The award was given to Vera Voronova of Kazakhstan and Yasabel Augustina Calderón Carlos of Peru.
- The award was given during the high-level segment of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on October 29, 2024, in Cali, Colombia.
- The award has been instituted by the AEON Environment Foundation and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The MIDORI Prize is presented every two years to those who have made outstanding contributions to protecting biodiversity.
- Each winner receives a cash prize of \$100,000 and a commemorative plaque.
- So far, 19 individuals from 17 countries have received the award.

Humanitarian Awards at the Conscious Company Awards 2024

- Humanist and spiritual leader Mohanji was honoured with the Humanitarian Award 2024 for Global Humanitarian Leadership at the 9th Conscious Company Awards in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- The event honours ethical and visionary leaders.
- The Conscious Company Awards are given to individuals and organizations that promote ethical behavior and sustainable practices.

8- PERSON IN NEWS

Justice Sanjiv Khanna

- President Droupadi Murmu appointed Justice Sanjiv Khanna as the 51st Chief Justice of India on 11 November 2024.
- He replaced D.Y. Chandrachud.
- Justice Khanna will retire on May 13, 2025.
- Justice Khanna had taken over as an additional judge of the Delhi High Court in 2005.
- Justice Sanjiv Khanna was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on 18th January 2019.
- He was part of the bench which declared the electoral bond scheme as unconstitutional.

Chief Justice of India (CJI)

- Present: Sanjeev Khanna
- First: Hiralal J. Kania
- Most tenured: Y. V. Chandrachud
- Minimum tenure: Kamal Narayan Singh
- No woman has become the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court so far.
- Appointment: By the President.
- **Oath:** By the President under Article 124(6). (As per Third Schedule of the Constitution)
- **Retirement age:** 65 years.
- **Removal:** By resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament on charges of misconduct or incapacity.
- **Note:** Judge has no tenure. There is no minimum age for judges.
- At present, the apex court has 33 judges besides the Chief Justice.

Naib Singh Saini

- **Nayab Singh Saini** was re-sworn in as the 11th Chief Minister of Haryana on 17 October 2024.
- Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered him the oath of office and secrecy in Panchkula.
- Apart from this, 13 ministers of his council of ministers also took oath.
- **Note:** The BJP has formed the government for the third time in a row in the Haryana Legislative Assembly elections.
- **Number of Council of Ministers**
 - According to the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act 2003, the total number of Council of Ministers in a state cannot exceed 15% of the total members of the Legislative Assembly of that state.
 - Haryana Legislative Assembly has a total of 90 members, so the maximum strength of the council of ministers can be 13.

Omar Abdullah

- Omar Abdullah was sworn in as the first Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on 16 October 2024.
- Surinder Kumar Choudhary (National Conference MLA from Jammu region) took oath as Deputy Chief Minister.
- Omar Abdullah, leader of the National Conference, became the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir for the second time.
- Earlier, he was the Chief Minister of the then Jammu and Kashmir state from 2009 to 2014.
- In the recently concluded elections, the alliance led by the National Conference got a majority.
- The National Conference won 42 seats and the Congress 6 seats.
- The Bharatiya Janata Party is the main opposition party in the Assembly with 29 seats.

Jammu and Kashmir Council of Ministers:

- According to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, the maximum strength of the council of ministers, including the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, cannot exceed 10 per cent of the total members of the legislative assembly.
- The total strength of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly is 116, out of which 114 members are directly elected by the public and 2 seats are reserved for women who will be nominated by the Lieutenant Governor.
- Of the 114 seats, 24 seats are from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir which are currently vacant. Hence, currently the maximum strength of the Legislative Assembly is 92 (90 elected + 2 nominated women members).
- Thus, the maximum number of members of the Council of Ministers including the Chief Minister cannot exceed 9.

Aarti Sarin

- Surgeon Vice Admiral Aarti Sarin became the first woman to become the Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS).
- She assumed charge as the 46th DGAFMS on 1st October 2024.
- She replaced Lt Gen Daljit Singh.

Vijaya Rahatkar

- Vijaya Rahatkar has been appointed as the chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW).
- A notification in this regard has been issued by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.

- She has been appointed under Section 3 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 for a term of three years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- She is the 9th Chairperson of NCW. She replaced Rekha Sharma.
- Vijay Rahatkar has also served as the chairperson of the Maharashtra State Women's Commission (2016-2021) and the Mayor of Aurangabad.
- **Dr. Archana Majumdar** has been appointed as a member of NCW.

National Commission for Women (NCW)

- It was established in 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.
- It is a statutory body.
- It advises the central and state governments on policy matters related to women.
- The main functions of the Commission are to review the constitutional and legal rights of women, redress grievances and make parliamentary and legislative recommendations.
- The Commission has been given the powers of a civil court.
- Headquarters: New Delhi

S Parmish

- S Parmish became the new chief of the Indian Coast Guard on October 15.
- He has commanded ships like Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel Samar and Offshore Patrol Vessel Vishwasta.
- He also served as Deputy Director General for Coastal Security and Operations and Coast Guard Commander for the Eastern Seaboard.

Vipin Kumar

- **Vipin Kumar** takes over as Chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- Prior to this, he **served as Additional Secretary**, Department of School Education and Literacy in the **Ministry** of Education.
- **The Airports Authority** of India was established on **April 1, 1995** by an Act of Parliament.

Abhyudaya Jindal

- Abhyudaya Jindal has been appointed as the new chairman at the annual plenary session held by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in New Delhi.
- Jindal is a graduate of Boston University and specializes in economics and business management.
- He had made significant improvements in the company as the Managing Director (MD) of Jindal Stainless.

Manoj Kumar Dubey

- Manoj Kumar Dubey has been appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC).

- IRFC is a Miniratna Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Railways.
- Dubey was earlier serving as Director (Finance) and Chief Financial Officer of Container Corporation of India (CONCOR).
- IRFC is one of the top public sector companies in India with a market capitalization of over Rs 2 lakh crore.

Noel Tata

- Noel Tata has been appointed as the chairman of Tata Trusts, the philanthropic arm of the Tata Group.
- He replaced Ratan Tata (passed away recently).
- Noel Tata has served on the boards of several listed companies, including Tata Steel and Voltas.
- Tata Trusts holds 66% stake in Tata Sons.
- He has been the Chairman of Tata International and Tata Investment Corporation Limited.

Aviral Jain

- Aviral Jain became the Executive Director at the Reserve Bank of India on 1 October 2024.
- Prior to this appointment, he was serving as the Regional Director of Maharashtra.
- Aviral specializes in areas such as supervision, currency management, foreign exchange regulation and human resource management.
- He is a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF).

Prakash Man Singh Raut

- Nepal's President Ram Chandra Poudel appointed Prakash Man Singh Raut as the new Chief Justice.
- The President administered the oath of office and secrecy to Chief Justice Raut.
- Prakash Man Singh Raut's name was recommended for the post by the Constituent Council.
- He replaced Biswambhar Prasad Shrestha.

Nima Rinji Sherpa

- Nepali mountaineer Nima Rinji Sherpa (18-years) set a new world record by becoming the youngest person to climb all 14 peaks above 8,000 metres.
- He successfully climbed the 8,027-meter high Shisha Pangma in Tibet on October 9.

Shigeru Ishiba

- Shigeru Ishiba is the 102nd Prime Minister of Japan.
- Shigeru Ishiba was approved as prime minister by the House of Representatives, the lower house of the Japanese parliament, after which Japanese Emperor Naruhito appointed him.
- Shigeru Ishiba replaces Fumio Kishida of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).
- Former Prime Minister Fumio Kishida resigned in September 2024 due to allegations of political scandals.
- According to the Japanese Constitution, after being approved by the lower house of parliament, the emperor appoints that person as prime minister.

- The Japanese parliament is called the Diet, which consists of the upper house (House of Councilors) and the lower house (House of Representatives).

Qais Syed

- Kais Saied has been elected President of Tunisia for the second time.
- His term will be 5 years.
- Tunisia is an African country with Arab civilization and is part of the Maghreb region of North Africa.
- It gained independence from France in 1956.

Claudia Sheinbaum

- Claudia Sheinbaum became Mexico's first female president on 1 October 2024.
- He replaced Andrés Manuel López Obrador in Mexico.
- She is the 66th President of Mexico.
- She will be in office for a six-year term until 2030.

Mexico:

- A country located in the southern part of North America.
- Capital: Mexico City
- Government: Federal President's Republic

Prabowo Subianto

- Prabowo Subianto was sworn in as the eighth President of Indonesia on 20 October 2024.
- He replaced Joko Widodo.
- Prabowo Subianto has been Indonesia's defense minister.
- Gibran Rakabuming Raka was also sworn in as Vice President.

Luong Cuong

- Luong Cuong has been elected President of Vietnam.
- On October 21, Cuong was elected Speaker in the ongoing 8th session of the 15th-term National Assembly (NA) for a term until 2026.
- Cuong replaced Toh Lam.
- Toh Lam has been appointed secretary-general of the ruling Communist Party.
- The role of the Secretary-General is the most powerful post in Vietnam, while the post of President is mostly ceremonial and involves meeting with foreign dignitaries.
- The current Prime Minister is Pham Minh Chinh of Vietnam.
- Hanoi is the capital of Vietnam.

Yahya Afridi

- Justice Yahya Afridi has been elected as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan.
- Recently, the 26th Constitution Amendment has been passed in Pakistan, which has brought significant changes in the judiciary.
- Justice Yahya Afridi replaced Justice Mansoor Ali Shah.

Demises

Ratan Tata

- Noted industrialist Ratan Tata passed away on October 9 at the age of 86.
- Ratan Tata led the Tata Group for 30 years and was also the chairman of Tata Sons.
- He was born on 28 December 1937 to Sunu and Naval Tata.

Important Contributions:

- During his tenure, the Tata group acquired Tetley Tea (2000), Corus Group (2007) and Jaguar and Land Rover (2008).

Major Awards and Honors:

- 2008: Padma Vibhushan (India's second highest civilian award)
- 2000: Padma Bhushan (India's third highest civilian award)

P. Venugopal

- Dr P Venugopal, who performed India's first heart transplant, passed away at the age of 82.
- In his career, he performed more than 50,000 heart surgeries.
- He published his memoir "Heartfelt" jointly with his wife in 2023.
- He was known as an uncompromising man in terms of his personal and professional integrity.
- He introduced many advanced concepts in heart surgery therapy from the western world to India.
- He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1998 for his contributions to the field of medicine.

Kanaka Raju

- Kanaka Raju, a symbol of folk dance and folk culture, passed away recently.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2021 for his outstanding contribution to the traditional dance style Gussadi.
- Kanaka Raju, who belongs to the Raj Gond tribe, popularised the rhythmic dance of Gussadi.

Rohini Godbole

- Renowned physicist Rohini Godbole passed away at the age of 72.
- She was a renowned physicist and gender equality advocate.
- She was awarded the Padma Shri in 2019.
- The French government awarded him the National Medal of Merit in 2021.

9- PLACE IN NEWS

Washim (Maharashtra): Banjara Heritage Museum inaugurated

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Banjara Heritage Museum at Pohardevi in Washim, Maharashtra on October 5.
- The museum has 13 galleries that depict the leaders of the Banjara community and the Banjara movement.
- The Prime Minister paid floral tributes at the memorials of Sant Sevalal Maharaj and Sant Ramrao Maharaj.

Banjara Community:

- The Banjara community are generally called nomadic people.
- They consider themselves to be related to the lineage of the Agnivanshi Rajputs.
- The Banjaras are divided into three tribes: Maturia, Labana, Charan.
- The community is spread across Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and other states.
- The language of Banjara is Lambadi, which is one of the Rajasthani dialects. Hindi, Telugu etc. are also spoken in other languages.

Kashi (Varanasi): Country's first Hindi literary museum

- The Uttar Pradesh government will set up the country's first Hindi literary museum in Kashi (Varanasi).
- This museum will be the first museum in the country dedicated to any language.
- Kolkata has a literary museum dedicated to Rabindranath Tagore, but the proposed museum in Kashi will be the first language-based museum in the country.

3 Artificial Intelligence Centres of Excellence (AI-CoE)

- 3 Artificial Intelligence Centres of Excellence (AI-CoE) focused on healthcare, agriculture and sustainable cities were announced by the Union Government on October 15.
- These centres will be set up at AIIMS Delhi, IIT Ropar and IIT Kanpur.
 - AIIMS Delhi-based centre: will work closely with IIT Delhi in the field of health.
 - IIT Ropar located centre: will work in the field of agriculture.
 - IIT Kanpur-based centre: Will work for sustainable cities.

- These centres will play an important role in research, innovation and promoting the economy and ensuring public welfare.
- These centres will be led by top academic institutions in collaboration with industry partners and startups.
- These three centers will conduct interdisciplinary research, develop cutting-edge applications, and create scalable solutions.
- Note: The establishment of these centres was announced in Budget 2023-24.

Hanle (Ladakh): Asia's largest and world's highest imaging Cherenkov observatory inaugurated

- The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) inaugurated the Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) observatory at Hanle, Ladakh on October 4.
- It is Asia's largest imaging Cherenkov telescope and also the world's highest telescope, located at an altitude of 4,300 meters.
- MACE has been manufactured indigenously by BARC in collaboration with ECIL and other Indian industry partners.
- This telescope will contribute to global efforts to understand high-energy gamma-ray phenomena such as supernovae, black holes and gamma-ray explosions.

Mumbai (Maharashtra): Inauguration of Indian Institute of Skills (IIS)

- The Prime Minister inaugurated the Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) in Mumbai on 9 October 2024.
- The campus of this institute is located in Chunabhatti, Mumbai.
- Objective: To enhance the employability of Indian youth.
- The institute will provide practical training in areas such as factory automation, digital manufacturing, mechatronics, artificial intelligence, data analytics & additive manufacturing.
- It has been set up under the public-private partnership (PPP) model, with collaboration between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Tata IIS.

Lothal: Development of National Maritime Heritage Complex approved

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal in Gujarat on 10th October 2024.

- The project will be developed under the Sagarmala project led by the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- Indian Ports Association has been appointed as the nodal agency for implementation of this project, while Indian Port Rail Corporation Limited (IPRCL) will act as the implementing agency.
- The project is envisaged to be one of the largest maritime complexes in the world and will be completed in two phases.
- The project will boost tourism as well as revive local employment and businesses.

Lothal

- Lothal is the only known port city of the Indus Valley Civilization and is a 4500-year-old archaeological site.
- It was discovered in 1952 by archaeologist SR Rao of the Archaeological Survey of India.
- It is located in Dholka taluka of Ahmedabad district.
- Lothal literally means 'mound of the dead'.
- The city developed as a trading port in 2400 BC.

Dubai: First International Research and Innovation Centre to be set up by IIT Madras

- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras will open its first international centre for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in Dubai in early 2025.
- The IITM Global Dubai Centre will specialise in cutting-edge areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), data science, robotics and sustainable energy.
- It will act as a new bridge to India's entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- IIT Madras and Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) have signed an agreement to set up the centre in Dubai.
- The centre will be the first of its kind programme set up under IITM Global that will promote research, innovation, IP licensing and technology transfer in key priority areas for Dubai such as AI, data science, robotics and sustainable energy technologies.

Patna (Bihar): 'Bapu Tower' inaugurated

- On the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated Bapu Tower at Gandhi Maidan in Patna on 2 October.
- This iconic five-storied building is made up of cylindrical and rectangular structures, with several galleries dedicated to the life of Mahatma Gandhi.
- It has a special section on Mahatma Gandhi's Bihar Yatra and Champaran Satyagraha, presented with audio-visual material.
- The tower was built at a cost of Rs 129 crore and is one of the biggest attractions of Bihar's modern cultural scene.

Kaziranga National Park: India's second butterfly diversity centre

- More than 446 butterfly species have been found in Kaziranga National Park.
- It has become the second butterfly diversity center in India after Arunachal Pradesh's Namdapha National Park.
- For the first time, "Butterfly Conservation Meeting-2024" was organized from 27th to 29th September, in which 40 butterfly lovers from all over India participated.
- It aimed to raise awareness about the importance of butterfly conservation and to give detailed butterfly records and information on their condition.

Wayanad (Kerala): X-band radar installed

- The Union Ministry of Earth Sciences installed an X-band radar in Kerala's Wayanad district, a significant step in the aftermath of devastating floods and landslides.
- This radar will carry out high temporal sampling especially to warn of landslides, thereby monitoring the movement of particles.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) started using radars for meteorological applications since the 1950s.
- This radar equipment detects distance, velocity, and physical characteristics of objects using radio waves.
- The initiative to set up an X-band radar in Wayanad also includes a C-band radar in Mangaluru, which has an observation range of 250 km.

Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh): Gaushala with bio-CNG plant inaugurated

- This cowshed can produce three tonnes of natural gas per day using 100 tonnes of cow dung.
- It has been set up in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).
- PM Modi virtually inaugurated the 'Lal Tipara Gaushala' located in Gwalior.
- It is India's first modern and self-sufficient cowshed, developed at a cost of ₹32 crore.

Thiruvananthapuram: Approval to develop Muthalappozhi port

- The Central Government has decided to develop Muthalappozhi Port in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- This redevelopment project involves development of both water and land facilities.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the central government will contribute Rs 106.2 crore, while the state will contribute Rs 70.8 crore.
- An additional Rs 13 crore has been allocated for the Smart-Green Port initiative and coastal protection.
- The central government has commissioned the Pune-based Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) for this project.

India's first 'writers' village' inaugurated in Thano village (Uttarakhand)

- Thano village was jointly inaugurated by former President Ram Nath Kovind, Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh (retd) and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.
- It is located about 24 km from Dehradun.
- The project is the vision of former Chief Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, himself an eminent writer.
- During the Sparsh Himalaya Mahotsav-2024, the first composition of this village 'Ram in the Himalayas' was also released.
- The village has facilities like Lekhan Kutir, Nakshatra and Navagraha Vatika, auditorium, yoga-meditation center, discussion center and restaurant.
- Here writers will be provided a calm and creative environment for their creations.

Bhubaneswar (Odisha): 18th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (Non Resident Day) 2025

- PBD will be organized in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) from January 8 to 10, 2025.
- A proposal sent by the Union Ministry of External Affairs in this regard was approved by Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.
- The event will be attended by President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several Union Ministers and Chief Ministers of Odisha among other dignitaries.
- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is observed annually on January 9, commemorating Mahatma Gandhi's arrival in India from South Africa in 1915.

Ladakh: Solar hydrogen microgrid installed

- NTPC and the Indian Army partnered to install solar hydrogen-based microgrids in Chushul, Ladakh.
- The foundation stone of this project was laid by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on 25 October 2024.
- The project will ensure stable power supply using green hydrogen in the Army's off-grid locations.
- This system is designed to use hydrogen as an energy storage medium.

Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh): Amaravati Drone Summit 2024

- Held on 22-23 October 2024 in Amaravati, the capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- The drone exhibition was held at Punnami Ghat on the banks of river Krishna.
- It was organized by Andhra Pradesh Drone Corporation.
- More than 5,000 drones participated in this conference 2024.
- Aim: To create a platform for industry experts, researchers, students and innovators.
- It was supported by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Confederation of Indian Industry and Drone Federation of India.
- The Andhra Pradesh government aims to establish the state as the drone capital of the country through this summit.

Mormugao Port - First port in the country to be listed on the Environment Ship Index

- Mormugao Port Authority became the first Indian port to be listed as an incentive provider on the Environment Ship Index (ESI) portal.
- The Mormugao port's effort to encourage green shipping has received international recognition.
- Mormugao Port launched green ship incentive through ESI.
- The 'Green Credit' incentive program of this port began in October 2023.
- Discounts on port charges are provided based on the ESI score, which rewards ships with high environmental performance.
- This initiative supports the goal of long-term emissions reductions in maritime operations.

10 - IMPORTANT FACTS

Country's first self-powered indoor air quality monitor

- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh unveiled the country's first self-powered indoor air quality monitor Pawan Chitra at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport.
- The Pawan Chitra has been developed by CSIR-NIIST, which is powered by solar energy and is completely off-grid.
- It is made from locally available materials and designed to mimic the natural process of photosynthesis.

Cabinet approves granting classical language status to five languages

- The Union Cabinet on 3 October 2024 granted classical language status to Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali and Prakrit.
- Since 2013, there has been a demand for Marathi to be given classical language status.
- So far there were six classical languages in India: Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Sanskrit and Odia.
- Tamil was given the status of the first classical language in the year 2004.
- In July 2024, the Linguistics Expert Committee, chaired by the Sahitya Akademi, revised the criteria for granting classical language status.
- When a language is designated as a classical language, the Ministry of Education provides incentives to encourage its use, such as:
 - Two major annual international awards for distinguished language scholars.
 - Establishment of Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Languages.

First state to get NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform Chapter

- Telangana has become the first state to get NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform chapter.
- NITI Aayog launched the first state chapter of Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).
- The platform has been set up in collaboration with the WE Hub and the Government of Telangana.
- Objective: To promote and support women entrepreneurs in various fields.
- The WE Hub will be the nodal agency for all WEP activities in the state.
- The platform will provide customized support such as digital skills, access to financial services, consultancy, and market linkages.
- WE Hub is India's first incubation centre exclusively for women entrepreneurs.

"Save Against Scams" Campaign Launch

- The Government of India and Meta launched the "Save Against Scams" campaign to tackle the growing menace of online scams.
- The initiative has been launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).
- Its main objective is to ensure the safety of citizens from cyber frauds and scams.
- This campaign is to make Indian citizens aware of cyber security and protect them from these threats.

A policy will be brought in to boost population in Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu plans to enact a law to promote the young population in view of the ageing population.
- The Chief Minister urged the citizens of the state to have more children.
- The Andhra government is planning to bring in a law under which only people having more than two children will be eligible to contest local body elections.
- The government is also considering to incentivise families who have more children.
- After 2047, the number of elderly in Andhra Pradesh will outnumber the youth.

Telangana becomes third state to launch caste survey

- The Telangana government initiated the process of comprehensive household caste survey in the state.
- **Objective:** To plan and implement social, economic, employment, educational and political opportunities for the upliftment of OBC, SC, ST and other weaker sections.
- It aims to ensure targeted and equitable resource distribution among all communities.
- Telangana has become the third state after Bihar and Andhra Pradesh to launch a caste-based census.
- The survey will be conducted door-to-door and will be completed within 60 days.

'Digital Memorial of Valor'

- The 'Digital Memorial of Valor' website was launched by the Railway Protection Force on 25th October in New Delhi.
- This website has been created to honour the sacrifices of courageous personnel, where citizens

can digitally decorate the portrait of martyrs with wreaths and candles.

- It is a digital platform that provides a sacred space to pay homage to the martyrs.
- Photographs of 14 bravehearts who were martyred last year with names and ranks are available on the website.
- It also includes a list of 1,011 martyrs of Railway Protection Force and Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF) who sacrificed their lives in the service of the nation.

Cyclonic Storm 'Dana'

- The cyclone hit the coastal areas of Odisha and West Bengal from east-central Bay of Bengal.
- During this time the wind speed was 100 to 120 kilometers per hour.
- The cyclonic circulation originated from the Andaman Sea and formed a low pressure area in the Bay of Bengal.
- A cyclone is a large air mass that circulates around a center of low atmospheric pressure.

Darshan of Holy Kailash Peak from Old Lipulekh Pass

- Pilgrims from India visited the holy Kailash peak from the old Lipulekh Pass inside Indian territory for the first time on 3 October 2024.
- Lipulekh Pass is located in the Vyas Valley of Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.
- Earlier, pilgrims had to travel to the Tibet Autonomous Region to see the Kailash peak.

Mount Kailash:

- Mount Kailash is located in the far south-west corner of the Himalayan Mountains.
- It is considered an important pilgrimage center for the Buddhist, Jain, Hindu and Tibetan religions of Bonn.
- According to Hindu beliefs, Mount Kailash is the abode of Lord Shiva.
- Tibetan Buddhists believe that Kailash is the home of Buddha Demchok, a symbol of supreme harmony.
- In Jainism, Kailash is called Mount Ashtapada and it is the place where Rishabhdev attained liberation from rebirth.

Cyber Commando Training

- C3iHub, IIT Kanpur launch six-month residential cyber commando training programme
- These highly trained professionals will play a critical role in securing India's cyber ecosystem and responding to potential threats
- Taking a significant step towards enhancing the country's cyber security readiness, C3iHub at IIT Kanpur has launched a "Cyber Commando Training Programme".

- It is a special six-month residential course designed to equip participants with cutting-edge skills in cybersecurity.
- The initiative is a collaboration between the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- These trained cyber commandos will assist the States/UTs and Central agencies in safeguarding the digital space.

Maharashtra declares indigenous cow breeds as 'Rajya Mata-Gomata'

- 30 September 2024, the Maharashtra government declared the indigenous cow breeds of the state as 'Rajyamata-Gomata'.
- The decision was taken in view of the dwindling number of indigenous cow breeds.
- Apart from this, the subsidy scheme for the upkeep of indigenous cows was also approved, under which cow shelters will be given Rs 50 per cow per day.

Anna Mirror (ANNA DARPAN) System

- Food Corporation of India (FCI) has launched a digital transformation initiative to modernise its existing supply chain management system.
- The initiative includes the implementation of a microservice-based integrated supply chain management system called ANNA DARPAN.
- The system aims to streamline the entire supply chain operations and services at mandis, mills, depots and various levels.

8 tribal products of Assam awarded GI tag

- The Geographical Indications Registry awarded GI tags to 8 products from Assam region.

Varieties of rice beer:

- Bodo Barley Guaran: Rice beer, made by the Bodo community, contains about 16.11% alcohol.
- Mabara Barley Bidvi: Served as a revered and welcome drink by the Bodo tribes.
- Bodo Barley Gishi: A traditionally fermented rice-based alcoholic beverage.

Traditional foods:

- Bodo Nephum: An important and favorite dish.
- Bodo Ondla: Curry made of rice powder.
- Bodo Gwakha and Bodo Narzi: A semi-fermented food.

Other:

- Bodo Aronai: a beautiful cloth (1.5-2.5 m long and 0.5 m wide).

e-Shram-One Stop Solution

- The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment launched the 'eShram-One Stop Solution' portal, in which 12 schemes have been integrated initially.

- The portal aims to integrate information on welfare schemes for unorganized sector workers on a single platform in an effective manner.
- The government also urged states and union territories to bring their schemes for unorganised sector workers on the eShram platform.
- The 'eShram One Stop Solution' aims to simplify the registration process of unorganised workers and facilitate their access to government schemes.

Weather forecast launched at Gram Panchayat level

- Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj and India Meteorological Department in collaboration with Ministry of Earth Sciences launched weather forecast at Gram Panchayat level.
- It aims to enhance preparedness and help farmers to deal with natural disasters.
- Under this initiative, gram panchayats will get five-day weather forecast and hourly updates, which will enable the rural community to plan agriculture better.
- This initiative will enable Panchayats to address climate challenges and improve decision-making for agriculture and disaster preparedness.

Conferences/Festivals

International Methanol Seminar & Expo 2024

- A two-day International Methanol Seminar and Expo 2024 was organized by NITI Aayog in New Delhi from October 17.
- The event is being organized in collaboration with the Methanol Institute of the United States.
- Emphasis will be placed on methanol production, applications and technological developments.
- Methanol can be produced from biomass, coal and renewable sources.
- Methanol is the cleanest and cheapest fuel, which is more economical than fossil fuels.

AROHA-2024 International Conference

- Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud inaugurated the International Conference on Advancement of Research and Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda (AROHA-2024) in New Delhi on October 17.
- Objective: To establish Ayurveda as a key pillar of global healthcare.
- The event was organised by the All India Institute of Ayurveda.

149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly

- The meeting was held on 13-17 October 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla led the parliamentary

delegation to the 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly.

- The main theme of this forum was: "Using Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future".

Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum 2024

- The Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum 2024 was held in Rome during the World Food Forum.
- The initiative launched by Qu Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, joined 72 countries.
- The forum brings together investors, development banks, the private sector, and development partners to present agri-food investment opportunities.

World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on October 15.
- For the first time, India and the Asia-Pacific region hosted this global event.
- The important event was attended by more than 3,000 delegates from over 190 countries, representing the telecommunications, digital and ICT sectors.

India Mobile Congress 2024

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 8th edition of India Mobile Congress 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on October 15.
- The theme of this edition was: "The Future is Now".
- The Prime Minister listed four major pillars of Digital India:
 - Low-priced appliances
 - Digital connectivity across the country
 - Easily accessible data
 - Goal of Digital First

International Conference 'Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue'

- The Indian Navy's annual apex level international conference 'Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue' was held in New Delhi from 3-5 October.
- The theme of the conference is 'Resources – Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific'.
- The conference is a key component of the Indian Navy's international outreach at the strategic level.
- It discussed the overall maritime security issues of the Indo-Pacific.

Chanakya Defence Dialogue – 2024

- Chanakya Defence Dialogue – 2024 was organised by the Indian Army and Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) on October 24-25.

- Theme: “Catalysts in Nation Building: Promoting Development through Comprehensive Security”.
- The talks will facilitate in-depth discussions and promote strategic partnerships.
- It was attended by national and international leaders, policy makers and subject experts.
- It aims to reflect the vision of resilient, secure and prosperous India by 2047.

2nd Indian Lighthouse Festival 2024

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the 2nd India Lighthouse Festival in Puri, Odisha.
- The festival aims to revive the rich maritime history of India’s iconic lighthouse in a culturally vibrant ambience.
- Two new lighthouses were announced at Narayanpur in Balasore district and Dhamra in Bhadrak district on the coast of Odisha.
- Two major projects at New Kalwan Reef Lighthouse in Jamnagar, Gujarat and Paddeep Port in Odisha were dedicated to the nation.
- The first edition of the Indian Lighthouse Festival was held in Goa in 2023.

14th All India Home Guard and Civil Defence Conference

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed the 14th All India Home Guard and Civil Defence Conference in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The two-day conference focused on strengthening Home Guards and Civil Defence.

Mera Hou Chongba Festival 2024

- The “Mera Hou Chongba Festival 2024” was held in Imphal to strengthen the cordial bond between the hill and valley people of Manipur.
- The main function was held at the holy place of Kangla.
- The festival symbolizes harmony and cultural exchange between the two regions.
- Mera Hou Chongba is the only festival in Manipur, where both the hill and valley communities of the state celebrate it together.

11- INDEXES & REPORTS

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Report 2024

- The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Report 2024 is jointly released by UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).
- According to the report, 1.1 billion of the 6.3 billion people live in acute multidimensional poverty, more than half of whom are children.
- Five countries with the largest number of people living in poverty:
 1. India (234 million)
 2. Pakistan (93 million)
 3. Ethiopia (86 million)
 4. Nigeria (74 million)
 5. Democratic Republic of the Congo (66 million)
- These five countries account for 48.1% of the total 1.1 billion poor people.
- Of the world's 1.1 billion poor people, 83.2% live in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.
- According to the report, 455 million poor people live in countries with violent conflict, affecting progress.

MPI Index:

- The MPI tracks deprivation across three dimensions and 10 indicators:
 - Health: Child mortality, nutrition
 - Education: Years of schooling, enrollment
 - Standard of living: Drinking Water, Sanitation, Electricity, Cooking Fuel, Floor, Property

Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2024

- **Released by:** Concern Worldwide and World Hunger Help (Welthungerhilfe in Germany) by the European NGO.
- In this index, India is ranked 105 out of 127 countries.
- India's score in the 2024 Hunger Index is 27.3, which falls in the "serious category".
- Nepal is ranked 68th, Sri Lanka 56th, Bangladesh 84th and Pakistan 109th.
- 22 countries including China, UAE and Kuwait rank first in this index.
- GHI is used by international humanitarian agencies to measure and track levels of malnutrition and starvation based on child mortality indicators.

Calculation of GHI Score

- The GHI score of each country is derived from 4 scales of 3 dimensions.
 1. undernourishment
 2. Infant Mortality Rate

3. Child Undernutrition

- Child Vesting
- Child Stunting
- These three dimensions are given a standard score of 100 points.
- Undernourishment, infant mortality and child undernutrition account for one-third of this score.
- On the score scale, 0 is the best score, while 100 is the worst.

Urban Governance Index

- The index was released by Mumbai-based non-profit organisation Praja Foundation.
- The index has been prepared in collaboration with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) under the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- Objective: To empower urban governments and increase citizens' participation in local governance.
- The index evaluates states based on four basic pillars and 42 indicators.

Components included in columns:

- Empowered Urban Elected Representatives and Legislative Structures
- Strong city administration
- Empowered Citizens
- Fiscal Empowerment
- The index ranks 31 cities, including 28 states, 2 union territories, and the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Top Performers Five States/UT	Low performers Five States/UTs
1. Kerala	1. Nagaland
2. Odisha	2. Manipur
3. Maharashtra	3. the abode of clouds
4. Chhattisgarh	4. Punjab
5. Madhya Pradesh	5. Chandigarh

- Only 12 municipalities (Raipur, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Mumbai, Aizawl, Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai, Lucknow, Dehradun and Kolkata) have independent powers to impose the new taxes.
- Kerala is the only state that has authorised the mayor to write the commissioner's 'Annual Confidential Report'.
- Shimla is the only Municipal Corporation which allows councillors to submit questions through a digital mechanism.
- Only in six cities (Raipur, Gurugram, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, and Hyderabad) are grievances lodged by citizens are redressed.

Rule of Law Index 2024

- **Released by:** the World Justice Project (WJP).
- India ranks 79 out of 142 countries in the Rule of Law Index 2024.
- Denmark ranks first in this index.
- It is followed by Norway, Finland, Sweden and Germany.
- Pakistan was ranked 140th in this index, which makes it the third country with the weakest law and security in the world; Mali and Nigeria are below that.
- The index evaluates countries using 44 indicators across 8 categories by WJP.
- South Asian Ranking: India ranks 3rd after Nepal (69), Sri Lanka (75).
- Venezuela ranks last in this index.

USA, France and Armenia become top three countries of Indian military exports

- As part of efforts to boost exports of indigenous defence equipment, the United States, France and Armenia have become the top three customers of Indian military exports.
- India is exporting military equipment to over 100 countries.
- Exports to the U.S.: Manufactured critical parts of planes and helicopters for Lockheed Martin and Boeing.
- Exports to France : Software and Electronic Equipment.
- Exports to Armenia: ATAGS artillery guns, Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher systems, Swathi weapons locating radar.
- The contribution of the private sector in this value of production is 21%.

Global Nature Conservation Index 2024

- Issued by: Ben-Gurion University and BioDB.com.
- In the Global Nature Conservation Index, 2024, India has been ranked 176th with an extremely low score of 45.5 (out of 100).
- In this ranking of 180 countries, India is among the five worst performing countries along with Kiribati (180), Turkey (179), Iraq (178) and Micronesia (177).
- The first index, launched in October 2024, evaluates conservation efforts using four criteria:
 1. Land Management
 2. Threats to biodiversity
 3. Capacity and Governance
 4. Future Trends
- The main reason for India's poor ranking is the growing threats to biodiversity and inadequate land management.

21st Livestock Census begins

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched the 21st Livestock Census Campaign.

- The initiative aims to strengthen the animal health infrastructure in India.
- The survey will cover 15 species: cattle, buffaloes, mithuns, yaks, sheep, goats, pigs, cows, horses, mules, donkeys, dogs, rabbits and elephants.
- Along with this, poultry birds will also be counted.
- This census will provide the latest data, which will be helpful in solving problems related to disease control, breed improvement and rural livelihood.
- The census also uses digital technology and will focus on women's role in livestock farming, breed management, animal health and productivity.

Emission Gap Report 2024

- **Issued by:** the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- The report urges countries to establish new NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) and adopt more ambitious targets.
- It requires countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2030 and 57% by 2035 to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Current policies are insufficient to meet even these goals.
- If there is no change, it will be difficult to prevent a 3.1 degree Celsius rise in temperature.

All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) 2021-22

- **Issued by:** NABARD.
- It is based on a survey of 1 lakh rural households, including economic and financial indicators of the post-COVID period.

Key Findings of NAFIS 2021-22:

- **Monthly income:** The average monthly income of households increased by 57.6%, from Rs 8,059 in 2016-17 to Rs 12,698 in 2021-22.
 - The average income of agricultural households was Rs 13,661 and that of non-agricultural households was Rs 11,438.
- **Income source:** Salaried employment in government or private sector remained the largest income source, accounting for 37% of total income.
- **Financial savings:** The average annual financial savings increased from Rs 9,104 in 2016-17 to Rs 13,209 in 2021-22.
- **Insurance cover:** The percentage of households covered by insurance cover increased from 25.5% in 2016-17 to 80.3% in 2021-22.
- **Pension:** The percentage of households receiving pension increased from 18.9% in 2016-17 to 23.5% in 2021-22.
- **Financial literacy:** The percentage of respondents displaying good financial literacy increased by 17% points to 51.3% in 2021-22.

11-IMPORTANT DAYS

Ddate	Day	Important facts
October 1	International Day of the Elderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme of 2024: 'Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide'. • The United Nations decided on 14 December 1990 that October 1 would be celebrated as the International Day of Older Persons.
October 2	Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti (155th), International Day of Non-Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 15 June 2007, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence. <p>Mahatma Gandhi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born: 2 October 1869, Porbandar, Gujarat. • Full Name: Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi • Major movements of Gandhiji: Champaran Movement, Kheda Movement, Non-Cooperation Movement, Quit India Movement, and Civil Disobedience Movement. • Death: 30 January 1948, New Delhi, assassinated by Nathuram Godse.
October 2	Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti (120th)	<p>Lal Bahadur Shastri</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born: 2 October 1904, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. • Died: 11 January 1966, Tashkent, Uzbekistan. • The first person to be posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna. • During the Indo-Pak war of 1965, the country was given the slogan of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan'. • Second Prime Minister of India (9 June 1964 to 11 January 1966) • After the Indo-Pak war in 1965, Pakistan signed the Tashkent Agreement with President Ayub Khan.
October 5	World Teachers' Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Day marks the anniversary of the adoption of ILO/UNESCO Recommendation in 1966. • The theme of 2024: "Valuing the Voice of Teachers: Toward a New Social Contract for Education." • In 1994, UNESCO declared October 5 as World Teachers' Day.
8 October	Indian Air Force Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2024, the Air Force held its 92nd anniversary in Chennai. • Theme of Air Force Day 2024: 'Indian Air Force: Competent, Strong and Self-Reliant'. <p>Indian Air Force:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Founded: 8 October 1932 ○ The President is the Supreme Commander of the three armies. ○ Current Chief of Air Staff: Amar Preet Singh.

9 October	World Post Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: To spread awareness of the role of postal services in social and economic development. Theme of 2024: '150 years of enabling communication and empowering people in different countries'. The day commemorates the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU).
10 October	World Mental Health Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: To raise awareness of mental health issues. The World Federation for Mental Health established the day in 1992. Theme of 2024: 'Mental Health at Work'
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: To promote girl empowerment and spread awareness about the protection of girl child's rights. Theme of 2024: 'Girls' Vision for the Future' The United Nations General Assembly recognized this day in 2011. The first International Day of the Girl Child was observed in 2012.
12 October	World Arthritis Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim: To spread awareness about arthritis. Theme of 2024: 'It's in your hands, take action' Arthritis is a disease of the joints, which causes swelling and stiffness.
13 October	International Day for Disaster Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim: To raise awareness about natural disaster. Theme of 2024: 'Empowering the next generation for a resilient future' The day is being observed on 13 October by the United Nations General Assembly since 2009.
14 October	World Standards Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is celebrated by members of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Theme of 2024: "Shared Vision for a Better World: Standards for a Changing Climate".
15 October	International Day of Rural Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: To spread awareness of the importance of women in agricultural development, rural development, food security, and rural poverty alleviation. Theme of year 2024: 'Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All' The United Nations General Assembly declared this day on 18 December 2007.
15 October	National Women Farmers Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: To increase the active participation of women in agriculture. In 2016, the Union Ministry of Agriculture decided to celebrate October 15 as National Women Farmers Day.

24 October	World Development Information Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This day shows the importance of dissemination of information among the general public. Objective: To draw the attention of the world to the problems of development and to make efforts to solve them. Reason: On October 24, 1970, the International Development Strategy for the Second Nations Development Decade was adopted.
29 October	Ayurveda Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ayurveda Day is celebrated on Dhanvantari Jayanti. Dhanvantari Jayanti is celebrated on the third day of the month of Ashwin. Theme of Ayurveda Day 2024: "Ayurveda Innovations for Global Health".
31 October	National Unity Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Vallabhbhai Patel. National Unity Day was started by the Government of India in 2014. Vallabhbhai Patel played an important role in the national integration of independent India. A two-year nationwide event will be held from 2024 to 2026 to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel. <p>Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Born: 31 October 1875 in Nadiad, Gujarat. Known as the Iron Man of India. He was the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India. The world's tallest statue (182 meters) of Sardar Patel is 'Statue of Unity' in Kevadia, located on the banks of Narmada in Gujarat.
31 October	World Cities Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: To address the challenges of urbanization and contribute to sustainable urban development. Theme of the year 2024: "Young people leading climate and local action for cities". The United Nations decided to celebrate this day in 2013.

United Nations Disarmament Week

- United Nations Disarmament Week is observed every year from 24 to 30 October.
- This week marks the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and seeks to raise awareness to reduce the spread of weapons.
- UNDC (United Nations Disarmament Commission) was established in 1952.
- It is headquartered in New York, USA and headed by Muhammad Usman Iqbal Jadoon.