



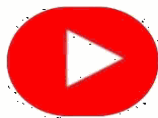
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👉 **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh gave a warm send-off to the 7,000 km "Vayu Veer Vijaeta" car rally to commemorate the 92nd anniversary of the Indian Air Force (IAF).**

On October 1, 2024, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh accorded a warm send-off to the "Vayu Veer Vijaeta" car rally from the National War Memorial in New Delhi. This rally is organized to commemorate the 92nd anniversary of the Indian Air Force (IAF), which will be celebrated on October 8, 2024.

- The rally will officially begin from Thoise in Ladakh, one of the highest altitude air force stations in the world, situated at 3,068 meters above mean sea level, on October 8, 2024. It will conclude in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, on October 29, 2024.

Main Points:-

(i) The IAF also organized an airshow themed "Saksham, Sashakta, Amtanirbhar" (Potent, Powerful, Self-reliant) at Marina Beach in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on October 6, 2024. This event was one of the largest airshows ever conducted by the IAF.

About IAF,

Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS): Air Marshal Tejinder Singh
Headquarters: New Delhi

👉 **Telangana Becomes First State to Launch a Chapter of NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform.**

In a groundbreaking initiative to promote women-led businesses, Telangana has become the first state in India to establish its own chapter of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).

- The 'WEP Telangana Chapter' was inaugurated by BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog, in Hyderabad, in the presence of State Information and Technology (IT) and Industries Secretary Jayesh Ranjan and WEP co-chair Sangeetha Reddy.
- Sita Pallocholla has been appointed as the Mission Director for the WEP Telangana Chapter. The Women Entrepreneurs Hub (WE HUB), Telangana, will serve as the nodal body for the initiative in the state.

Main Points:-

(i) This state-specific chapter aims to provide comprehensive support to women entrepreneurs by offering access to mentorship, financial resources, and digital tools that empower women in both urban and rural areas.

About Telangana,

Chief minister: Revanth Reddy
Governor: Jishnu Dev Varma

👉 **Eight products from Assam's Bodo Tribe have been granted GI tag.**

The Geographical Indications (GI) Registry, located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, and operating under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) within the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI), has officially granted the GI tag to eight products originating from Assam.

- The eight newly recognized GI products are: Jou Gwan, Maibra Jou Bidwi, Jou Gishi, Napham (fermented fish), Ondla/Onla, Gwkha Gwkhwi, Narzi, and Aronai.
- These products include traditional food items and distinctive varieties of rice beer, showcasing the rich cultural practices and culinary heritage of the Bodo Tribe of Assam.

Main Points:-

(i) The Bodo Traditional Brewers Association applied for Geographical Indication tags for three rice beer variants. The first, 'Bodo Jou Gwan,' has the highest alcohol content (about 16.11%) among Bodo rice beers.

(ii) The second, 'Maibra Jou Bidwi' (locally 'Maibra Jwu Bidwi'), is valued and often served as a welcome drink by many Bodo tribes.

About Assam,

CM : Himanta Biswa Sarma

Governor : Lakshman Prasad Acharya

FCI introduces ANNA DARPAN: a new era of digital transformation in supply chain management.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI), under the Department of Food & Public Distribution (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution), has launched a comprehensive digital transformation initiative. This initiative aims to modernize its existing supply chain management system, known as the 'Depot Online System', by implementing a new, microservices-based integrated supply chain management system called 'Anna Darpan'.

- The system is being developed to simplify and enhance supply chain operations at all levels, including Mandis, Mills, Depots (both owned and hired), and divisional, regional, zonal, and headquarters operations.
- M/s Coforge Limited has been chosen as the System Integrator (SI) by FCI, and the contract was signed on June 14, 2024.
- M/s Coforge Limited is responsible for the entire process of designing, developing, implementing, and maintaining the ANNA DARPAN system.

Main Points:-

FCI's strategic vision for the ANNA DARPAN system aims to enhance efficiency, user experience, data-driven decision-making, system integration, and mobile accessibility while optimizing existing applications to improve overall performance.

About Food Corporation of India (FCI),

Chairman & Managing Director(MD) - Ashok Kumar Meena

Headquarters: New Delhi

👉 Two super high altitude firing ranges in Arunachal Pradesh made available for armed forces.

Two super high altitude firing ranges were made available to the armed forces for the practice of various kinds of weapons and surveillance equipment in Arunachal Pradesh within an aerial distance of 50 kilometres from the highly sensitive Line of Actual Control.

- While the first of the integrated surveillance and firepower training exercises named 'Buland Bharat' has already been conducted at Mandala in May, a major firing exercise is yet to be conducted at the Kamrala firing range, security sources told PTI.

Main Points:-

- (i) The initiative to hand over the land of the Mandala and Kamrala firing ranges, located at an altitude of above 10,000 feet, to the armed forces was taken by Chief Minister Pema Khandu.
- (ii) Arunachal Pradesh shares a 1,129-km-long LAC (Line of Actual Control) with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

About Arunachal Pradesh,

Chief minister: Pema Khandu

Governor: Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

👉 Regional Labour Institute(RLI) -Chennai Achieves "Uttam" Accreditation from Capacity Building Commission(CBC).

The Regional Labour Institute (RLI) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, has been awarded Accreditation (6890-n) by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) under the National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions (NSCSTI).

- RLI Chennai has received the Certificate of Accreditation with a grading of "Uttam."
- The institute is recognized for its exceptional services in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) training.
- This accreditation will help RLI Chennai adapt its activities to keep pace with advancements in OSH, promoting collaboration for a sustainable future.

Main Points:-

RLI Chennai is a subordinate office of the Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI) under the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE). RLI Chennai was formally inaugurated by then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Bhakthavathchalam in 1963.

👉 PM Modi marked the 10th anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

On 2nd October 2024, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi participated in the Swachh Bharat Diwas program held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. This event celebrated the 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

- The program was organized to mark the successful completion of 10 years of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), which is one of the most significant mass movements for cleanliness in India.
- During the event, PM Modi launched and laid the foundation stone for several sanitation and cleanliness projects, totaling over Rs 9,600 crore.

Main Points:-

- (i) Theme of SHS 2024: 'Swabhav Swachhata- Sanskar Swachhata'.
- (ii) Additionally, the SHS 2024 campaign, observed across India from 17th September 2024 to 2nd October 2024, successfully concluded with the Swachh Bharat Diwas program.

MoH&FW has increased the monthly nutrition support for TB patients to Rs 1,000.

On 7th October 2024, Union Minister Jagat Prakash (JP) Nadda, from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), announced significant enhancements to nutritional support for tuberculosis (TB) patients. These initiatives aim to improve the health and recovery of TB patients and their household contacts.

- The Ni-Kshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) has raised the monthly nutritional support from Rs. 500 per patient to Rs. 1,000 per patient throughout their treatment.
- The initiative will incur an additional cost of Rs. 1,040 crores, to be shared between the central and state governments at a ratio of 60:40.

Main Points:-

- (i) This will be introduced for all patients with a Body Mass Index (BMI) below 18.5 kg/m² at the time of diagnosis. Under NPY, TB patients will receive a total nutritional support ranging from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 6,000 annually. Approximately 25 lakh TB patients will benefit from this, including 12 lakh individuals who are underweight.
- (ii) To date, Rs. 3,202 crores have been disbursed to 1.13 crore beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under NPY.
- (iii) India aims to eliminate tuberculosis by 2025, ahead of the global target of 2030 for sustainable development.

About Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW)

Minister : J. P. Nadda

Headquarters: New Delhi

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has completed three transformative years in advancing digital health.

On September 27, 2024, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), a crucial part of Ayushman Bharat (AB) — the flagship scheme of the Government of India (GoI) that originated from the National Health Policy of 2017 — successfully completed three years of implementation.

- Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 27, 2021, the mission aims to transform the country's digital healthcare ecosystem, enhancing accessibility, efficiency, and transparency in healthcare services.
- Additionally, over 42 crore health records have been linked to ABHA, facilitating seamless access to medical histories and improving healthcare delivery.

Main Points:-

To date, over 67 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) have been created. These accounts are designed to provide citizens with unique digital health IDs, ensuring secure access to and sharing of their health records.

About National Health Authority (NHA):

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- LS Changsan
Headquarters: New Delhi

👉 **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the establishment of four thematic hubs and technical groups for the National Quality Mission (NQM).**

On September 30, 2024, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the establishment of Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) and Technical Groups for the National Quantum Mission (NQM) during a video conference at a ceremony in New Delhi.

- The initiative includes the creation of four T-Hubs, consisting of 14 Technical Groups and 17 Project Teams, spread across 17 states and 2 Union Territories in India.
- These hubs will unite a total of 152 researchers from 43 institutions, including 31 institutes of national importance, 8 research laboratories, 1 university, and 3 private institutes across the country.

Main Points:-

(i) Additionally, the Ministry for Science and Technology launched 'Bharat Gen,' an innovative initiative in generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) aimed at transforming public service delivery and enhancing citizen engagement.

(ii) This project represents the world's first government-funded Multimodal Large Language Model (LLM) initiative, focused on creating efficient and inclusive AI solutions in Indian languages.

About Ministry of Science & Technology (MoS&T),

Union Minister of State (MoS)- Dr. Jitendra Singh (Constituency- Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir, J&K).

👉 **Assam Becomes the First State to Introduce Co-Districts as a New Administrative Framework.**

Assam has taken a pioneering step by becoming the first state in India to launch and operationalize Co-Districts, an innovative initiative aimed at decentralizing district administration and bringing governance closer to the grassroots. Co-Districts serve as targeted administrative

units within a district.

- A total of 21 Co-Districts were launched across Assam, with the goal of making governance and administrative services more accessible to citizens.
- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma initiated this administrative reform in 2023, replacing the previous system of 24 civil sub-divisions.

Main Points:-

- The government plans to establish Co-District offices in all 126 assembly constituencies in Assam.
- On October 4, 2024, Phase 1 of this initiative was launched, followed by the inauguration of 18 Co-Districts on October 5, 2024.

About Assam

Chief Minister(CM)- Himanta Biswa Sarma
Governor- Lakshman Prasad Acharya

Union Health Minister JP Nadda addressed the 77th session of the WHO Regional Committee for the South-East Asia Region.

On October 7, 2024, Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), addressed the 77th session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Southeast Asia Region (SEARO) in New Delhi.

- The WHO SEARO meeting included the election of office bearers, the establishment of a "Drafting Group for Resolutions and Decisions," the adoption of "Special Procedures" to regulate session conduct, and the approval of the provisional agenda.

Main Points:-

- The 77th session of the Regional Committee (RC77) for Southeast Asia took place from October 7 to 9, 2024.
- In his inaugural address, Union Minister JP Nadda emphasized that India's health system adopts a "whole of government" and "whole of society" approach to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), focusing on strengthening primary healthcare and essential services.

About the World Health Organization (WHO)

Director General (DG) : Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Union Cabinet Approves Proposals on October 9, 2024, Chaired by PM Narendra Modi.

On October 9, 2024, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved several significant proposals aimed at enhancing infrastructure and security.

- The cabinet sanctioned the development of the world-class National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat, to be executed in two phases by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW).

- Additionally, approved the construction of 2,280 km of roads in Rajasthan and Punjab, with an investment of ₹4,406 crore.

Main Points:-

(i) The cabinet also decided to continue the universal supply of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) under various Central Government schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), from July 2024 to December 2028, at a cost of ₹17,082 crore.

(ii) In terms of national security, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved deals for the procurement of 31 MQ-9B High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) from General Atomics of the USA, along with the indigenous construction of two Nuclear Attack Submarines (SSN), further strengthening India's defense capabilities.

The Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) has been extended for three months, with a cap set at Rs 50 lakh.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has extended the Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) for pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit for an additional three months, now lasting until December 31, 2024, to promote India's outbound shipments.

- The scheme is fund-limited, with earlier benefits for individual exporters capped at Rs 10 crore per annum per Import Export Code (IEC). This cap has now been raised to Rs 50 lakh.

- The DGFT has announced that fiscal benefits for each Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) will be capped at Rs 50 lakh in total for the fiscal year 2024-25, valid until December 2024.

- MSME manufacturer exporters who have already received an equalisation benefit of Rs 50 lakh or more by September 30, 2024, will not be eligible for any further benefits during the extended period.

Main Points:-

This scheme was initiated on April 1, 2015, originally valid for five years until March 31, 2020, and has since been extended multiple times with additional fund allocations.

PM Narendra Modi Unveils Development Initiatives in Hazaribag, Jharkhand.

On October 2, 2024, marking Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) from Hazaribag, Jharkhand, with a significant investment of over ₹79,156 crores.

- During the event, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation for various projects aimed at empowering tribal communities in Hazaribag.

- Additionally, he initiated multiple projects under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), amounting to over ₹1,360 crores.

Main Points:-

(i) According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, the project will benefit more than 5 crore tribals in 549 districts across 30 states and Union Territories.

(ii) The scheme seeks to address critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood through 25 interventions implemented by 17 central ministries and departments.

About Jharkhand,

Chief minister: Hemant Soren

Governor: Santosh Gangwar

👉 MeitY & MCTE Collaborate to Promote Innovation and Technological Advancements for Defence.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has partnered with the Military College of Telecommunications Engineering (MCTE) in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, to enhance innovation and drive technological advancements for defence applications.

- Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, MeitY's Research and Development (R&D) organizations have provided indigenously developed products to MCTE for military purposes.
- This partnership aims to strengthen collaborative efforts for joint R&D in areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum Technology, Chip Design, Fifth Generation (5G) and beyond, as well as strategic electronics and communications.
- It will accelerate the adoption of advanced technologies to address the evolving needs and challenges of the Indian Army (IA).

Main Points:-

This collaboration will create a platform for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through an incubation ecosystem, fostering the cross-pollination of ideas and technologies.

About Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY),

Minister : Ashwini Vaishnaw

Headquarters: New Delhi

👉 DoT and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have launched a new system to combat fraudulent calls.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under the Ministry of Communications (MoC), has collaborated with major Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to launch a two-tiered system aimed at addressing the rising issue of telecom fraud. This fraud involves scammers manipulating Caller Line Identification (CLI) to carry out financial scams.

- The system is designed to identify and block incoming international calls that appear to be from Indian mobile numbers. This is important for stopping scams before they reach consumers.

Main Points:-

All four TSPs have successfully implemented the system. Approximately one-third of the total spoofed calls, amounting to 4.5 million, are being prevented from entering the Indian telecom network.

About Department of Telecommunications (DoT),

Secretary : Niraj Mittal

Headquarters: New Delhi

👉 Jamaican PM Andrew Holness Concludes 4-Day Visit to India to Enhance Trade and Investment Ties.

Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica, visited India for four days from 30th September 2024 to 3rd October 2024 to strengthen bilateral ties in key areas such as trade and investment.

- This visit is expected to bolster bilateral relations, enhance economic cooperation, and solidify the longstanding bonds between Jamaica and India," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, announcing the trip.

Main Points:-

- (i) During this visit, India and Jamaica exchanged four 4 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in the areas of Digital Public Infrastructure, Cultural Exchange, and Sports.
- (ii) This historic visit includes meetings with PM Modi, President Murmu, and Vice President Dhankhar.

About Jamaica

Prime Minister - Andrew Holness

Capital - Kingston

👉 PM Modi's One-Day Visit to Maharashtra Launches Initiatives Worth ₹23,300 Crore in Washim and ₹32,800 Crore in Thane.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a one-day visit to Washim and Thane in Maharashtra on October 5, 2024. He launched several initiatives worth about ₹23,300 crore in agriculture and animal husbandry sectors in Washim, Maharashtra and also inaugurated over 7,500 projects worth over ₹1,920 crore under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF).

- In Thane, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for several initiatives exceeding ₹32,800 crore, aimed primarily at enhancing urban mobility in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

Main Points:-

- (i) PM Modi took part in the Abhijat Marathi language program held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- (ii) While addressing the event, he informed that the Marathi language has officially been granted the status of a classical language by the Government of India (GoI).

About Maharashtra

Chief Minister (CM) - Eknath Shinde

Governor- CP Radhakrishnan

👉 Highlights of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Visit to Uzbekistan.

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) officially visited Uzbekistan from September 24 to 28, 2024, leading a delegation of officials from the MoF.

- During her visit, she participated in the 9th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which took place in Samarkand from September 25 to 26, 2024.
- She also conducted significant bilateral meetings with Jin Liqun, the President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), as well as with her counterparts from Uzbekistan, Qatar, and China.

Main Points:-

(i) As part of the official visit, the Union Finance Minister is expected to call-on H.E Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan.

(ii) The AIIB Annual Meeting featured delegations from 80 countries, focusing on sustainable infrastructure development and promoting investments to enhance economic growth and connectivity in Asia.

About Uzbekistan,

Prime Minister- Abdulla Aripov

Capital- Tashkent

👉 India's Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has become an affiliate member of the International Medical Device Regulators Forum.

India has joined the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF) as an affiliate member, with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) receiving the Affiliate Membership.

- India's application for affiliate membership was reviewed during the 26th Session of IMDRF, held in September 2024 in Seattle, Washington, USA.
- This membership will enhance India's global collaboration in medical device regulation. It will strengthen the competitiveness of India's domestic industry while promoting "Brand India" on the international stage.

Main Points:-

(i) The IMDRF, established in 2011 aims to accelerate international regulatory harmonization and convergence for medical devices.

(ii) Its members include regulatory authorities from the USA, Australia, Canada, the European Union (EU), Japan, the United Kingdom (UK), Brazil, Russia, China, South Korea, Singapore, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

(iii) The IMDRF Chair and Secretariat rotate annually among the jurisdictions of Management Committee members.

About IMDRF,

Established : 2011

IMDRF's Chair and Secretariat rotates annually among the member jurisdictions of the Management Committee. The United States of America is the current Chair and Secretariat for 2024.

Secretary Gina Raimondo and Piyush Goyal co-chaired the 6th U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue Meeting.

On October 3, 2024, Union Minister Piyush Goyal from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) and Gina Raimondo, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, co-chaired the 6th consecutive India-U.S. Commercial Dialogue at the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C.

- Piyush Goyal visited the U.S. from September 30 to October 3, 2024, at the invitation of Gina Raimondo.

Main Points:-

- (i) Shri Goyal and Secretary Raimondo will talk about improving critical minerals supply chains between India and the USA, aiming to sign a MoU for better collaboration.
- (ii) Minister Goyal will meet USTR (United States Trade Representative) Ambassador Katherine Tai in Washington, DC, to discuss enhancing bilateral trade.

About U.S.A (United States)

Capital: Washington, D.C.

President : Joe Biden

The Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and the UAE is now in effect.

The Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) came into effect on August 31, 2024. This treaty was signed in Abu Dhabi on February 13, 2024.

- The BIT replaces the earlier Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA), which expired on September 12, 2024. This ensures continued investment protection for investors from both nations. BIPPA was originally signed in December 2013.
- The India-UAE BIT 2024 includes a closed asset-based investment definition, fair treatment guarantees, ISDS provisions, exclusions for taxation, and protections against corruption and expropriation.

Main Points:-

- (i) The UAE ranks 7th among countries, accounting for 3% of the total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) received in India. From April 2000 to June 2024, the UAE invested approximately USD 19 billion in India.
- (ii) India's Overseas Direct Investment (ODI) in the UAE amounts to USD 15.26 billion from April 2000 to August 2024.

About UAE,

Prime minister: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

President: Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Overview of the 79th Session of the UNGA held from September 10 to 30, 2024.

The 79th UN General Assembly session occurred from September 10-30, 2024, addressing global issues like climate change and sustainable development.

- Philemon Yang, the former Prime Minister of Cameroon, served as the President of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly.
- Three agreements—the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact, and the Declaration on Future Generations—were adopted during the summit.

Main Points:-

- (i) The 79th session of UNGA commenced on 10th September 2024.
- (ii) The general debate of UNGA 79 took place from September 24 to 28, 2024, under the theme "Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development, and human dignity for present and future generations."
- (iii) The debate closed on 30th September 2024.

About UNGA,

President: Philémon Yang

Headquarters: New York, USA

"Piyush Goyal Visits Vientiane for ASEAN-India and East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meetings.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) visited Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Laos PDR), from September 20 to 21, 2024, to participate in the 21st ASEAN-India Economic Ministers meeting and the 12th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting.

- The annual meetings of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) with their dialogue partners are hosted by Lao PDR, the ASEAN Chair for 2024.
- Union Minister Piyush Goyal conducted several bilateral meetings with counterparts from participating countries.
- He also met with ASEAN Secretary General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn.

Main Points:-

- (i) ASEAN is one of India's most important trading partners. For the last two consecutive years, ASEAN has been India's second largest trading partner.

REC Limited has signed a ₹3 lakh crore financing agreement with the Government of Rajasthan for power projects.

On October 1, 2024, REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Private Limited), a Maharatna Central Public Sector Unit (CPSU) under the Ministry of Power (MOP), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Rajasthan (GoR) to provide financial support of ₹3 lakh crore for infrastructure projects in the state.

- The MoU was signed by Rahul Dwivedi, Executive Director (PMD & I&L), REC Limited, and Debasish Pradhan, Secretary, GoR.
- The event was organized in the presence of Bhajanlal Sharma, Chief Minister of Rajasthan, and Colonel Rajyavardhan Rathore, Minister of Industries and Commerce, GoR, during the "Rising Rajasthan Investor Meet".

Main Points:-

REC stated that the financing will be provided for projects in both power and non-power infrastructure sectors over a period of six years, until 2030.

About REC Limited,

Chairman & MD : Vivek Kumar Dewangan
Headquarters: New Delhi

SEBI has introduced a new framework aimed at reducing excessive speculation in the stock market.

On October 1, 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced six measures aimed at the index derivatives trading framework to mitigate excessive speculation, addressing growing concerns over the rising losses faced by individual traders. Here are 6 rules proposed by Sebi to regulate F&O trading in India:- 1) Upfront collection of Option Premium from options buyers, 2) Removal of calendar spread treatment on expiry day, 3) Intraday monitoring of position limits, 4) Contract size for index derivatives, 5) Limiting weekly index expiry to one per exchange, 6) Increase in tail risk coverage on the day of options expiry.

- These measures will be rolled out in phases, starting from November 20, 2024.
- Under the new framework, SEBI has mandated that options premiums be collected upfront from option buyers by Trading Members (TMs) or Clearing Members (CMs), with implementation set for February 1, 2025.

Main Points:-

(i) Here are 6 rules proposed by Sebi to regulate F&O trading in India:- 1) Upfront collection of Option Premium from options buyers, 2) Removal of calendar spread treatment on expiry day, 3) Intraday monitoring of position limits, 4) Contract size for index derivatives, 5) Limiting weekly index expiry to one per exchange, 6) Increase in tail risk coverage on the day of options expiry.

About SEBI,

Chairperson: Madhabi Puri Buch
Headquarter : Mumbai

ADB Approves USD 162 Million Loan for Sustainable Tourism Development in

Himachal Pradesh.

On October 3, 2024, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a loan of USD 162 million to support sustainable and inclusive tourism development projects in Himachal Pradesh (HP).

- This project aims to enhance district-level tourism management and develop destination plans and tourist sites throughout HP.
- The project will promote heritage and cultural centers, restore historical castles, beautify public spaces, and construct convention centers and facilities in the districts of Mandi, Hamirpur, Kullu, and Kangra.

Main Points:-

(i) By enhancing and maintaining heritage and cultural sites, building new infrastructure, and strengthening the tourism industry, this initiative aims to boost the state's tourism potential.

About ADB,

President: Masatsugu Asakawa (from 17 January 2020)

Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines

👉 **The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has unveiled new guidelines for addressing delayed tax refund claims.**

On October 1, 2024, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), part of the Department of Revenue (DoR) under the Ministry of Finance (MoF), released new guidelines to address delays in submitting Income Tax Returns (ITR). These guidelines specifically cover claims for refunds related to carrying forward losses under Section 119 (2) (b) of the Income-Tax (IT) Act, 1961.

- These new guidelines replace any previous instructions or guidelines that were previously in effect.
- To streamline the process, the CBDT has introduced a three-tier system for processing applications, which is based on the amount of the claim.

Main Points:-

The new guidelines stipulate that a time limit for filing such applications—specifically, within five years from the end of the relevant assessment year—will apply to applications submitted on or after October 1, 2024.

About Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT),

Chairperson: Ravi Agarwal

Headquarters: New Delhi

👉 **SEBI Unveils New Regulations for InVITs and REITs to Enhance Liquidity and Simplify Business Compliance.**

On September 26, 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced several amendments to the "SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014" and the "SEBI (Real Estate Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014." These changes were made under the powers conferred by Section 30, in conjunction with Sections 11 and 12 of the SEBI Act, 1992

(15 of 1992).

- One of the most significant changes introduced by SEBI for Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InVITs) is the reduction of the trading lot size for privately placed InVITs to ₹25 lakh. This adjustment is aimed at enhancing investor participation and increasing the liquidity of these investment vehicles.

Main Points:-

(i) The new regulations stipulate that SEBI has established a timeline for distributions to unit holders by Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and InVITs, setting it at five working days from the record date.

About SEBI,

Chairperson: Madhabi Puri Buch
Headquarter : Mumbai

👉 **SATYA Micro Capital has secured ₹1000 million from Mizuho Bank to support women entrepreneurs.**

New Delhi-based SATYA Micro Capital Limited, a Non-Banking Financial Company-Microfinance Institution (NBFC-MFI), has successfully raised ₹1000 million from Mizuho Bank Limited, a subsidiary of Mizuho Financial Group, Inc., based in Tokyo, Japan.

- This marks the first collaboration between SATYA and Mizuho Bank, enhancing its lender network.
- With a network of more than 550 branches spanning over 55,000 villages across 25 states, SATYA is harnessing technology as a catalyst for inducing progressive change in the lives of its clients, where it has consistently integrated cutting-edge innovations into its operations.

Main Points:-

(i) SATYA focuses on enhancing financial capacity and self-sufficiency, driven by a dedicated taskforce of over 7,000 employees contributing to its growth.

👉 **Bank of Baroda (BoB) introduces the 'Masterstroke Savings Account' tailored for premium customers.**

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has introduced the bob Masterstroke Savings Account, designed for high-net-worth clients. This premium account offers exclusive benefits such as higher interest rates via the Flexi Fixed Deposit facility, priority banking, and wealth management consultations.

- Customers receive the bob World Opulence Visa Infinite Debit Card (Metal Edition) and a lifetime-free Eterna Credit Card (subject to eligibility).

Main Points:-

(i) The account includes a sweep facility for balances above Rs 20 lakh and provides a 0.25% concession on retail loan interest rates. Customers must maintain a Quarterly Average Balance (QAB) of Rs 10 lakh to avail of these benefits, with penal charges of Rs 3,000 per quarter for non-maintenance.

(ii) The launch coincided with the appointment of cricketer legend Sachin Tendulkar as Bank of Baroda's Global Brand Ambassador.

About Bank of Baroda (BoB),

CEO & MD : Debadatta Chand

Headquarters: Alkapuri, Vadodara

👉 ICICI Bank has teamed up with PhonePe to provide instant credit through UPI.

On October 8, 2024, ICICI Bank Limited, one of India's leading private sector banks, announced its partnership with PhonePe, the country's largest digital platform, to provide instant credit via the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for its pre-approved customers through the PhonePe app.

- Eligible customers can access instant credit of up to Rs 2 lakh with a repayment period of 45 days.

- This credit line facility is compatible with various UPI payment apps, providing users with flexibility and convenience.

Main Points:-

(i) PhonePe dominates the UPI transaction market with a 49% share of the total transaction volume in India, followed by Google Pay with 38%. Additionally, the PhonePe platform processes transactions worth nearly Rs 200 crore each month.

(ii) In 2023, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) introduced the "credit line on UPI" service, which provides low-ticket, high-volume retail loans to individuals and businesses.

About ICICI Bank

Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO):- Sandeep Bakshi

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

👉 SBI Card and Singapore Airlines Launch Two Co-Branded Credit Cards: KrisFlyer SBI Card and KrisFlyer SBI Card Apex.

SBI Cards and Payment Services Limited (SBI Card), a non-banking financial company, has collaborated with Singapore Airlines (SIA) to introduce two co-branded credit cards: the "KrisFlyer SBI Card" and the "KrisFlyer SBI Card Apex."

- Both cards are available on American Express and Mastercard platforms, offering curated rewards for frequent flyers.

- Designed for super-premium cardholders, these travel-centric credit cards provide exclusive privileges in the air and on the ground with the SIA Group, including Singapore Airlines, Scoot airline, KrisShop.com, the Kris+ lifestyle app, and Pelago.

Main Points:-

(i) The cards will be accepted at over 24 million outlets worldwide, including 325,000 locations in India.

(ii) The joining and annual renewal fee for the KrisFlyer SBI Card is Rs 2,999 plus applicable taxes, while the fee for the KrisFlyer SBI Card Apex is Rs 9,999 plus applicable taxes.

About Singapore Airlines

CEO: Goh Choon Phong

Headquarters: Singapore

👉 Vivriti Capital Secures USD 25 Million ADB Loan for Climate Initiatives.

Vivriti Capital Limited (VCL), a non-banking finance company (NBFC), has successfully raised a USD 25 million senior secured debt facility from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support its climate finance efforts.

- This four-year bond marks the first of its kind issued by an NBFC and is aimed at expanding VCL's green finance portfolio.
- At least 30% of the funds received will be spent on electric vehicles (EVs), including investments in charging stations and battery swapping facilities.

Main Points:-

(i) Certified by the Climate Bonds Initiative, the bond is designed to enhance access to climate finance for financially underserved sectors, including micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), mid-market corporates, and retail clients across India.

(ii) India is committed to ambitious environmental goals in its updated nationally determined contributions, including a target to reduce carbon emissions by one billion tons by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.

👉 JFSL and BlackRock have received in-principle approval from SEBI to establish a mutual fund business.

On October 3, 2024, Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL), a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) supported by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), received in-principal approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to set up a Mutual Fund (MF) business. This venture will be in collaboration with BlackRock Financial Management Inc., based in New York, which is the world's largest asset manager. The final registration approval will be granted by SEBI once JFSL and BlackRock meet the requirements specified by SEBI in its official notification.

- JFSL will invest Rs 3 crore for the initial subscription of 30 lakh equity shares with a face value of Rs 10 each.
- Additionally, both companies announced an investment of USD 150 million each for the mutual fund business in India.

Main Points:-

(i) In July 2023, Jio Financial Services announced a 50:50 joint venture with BlackRock to launch asset management services in India, with each partner committing an initial investment of USD 150 million.

(ii) On April 15, 2024, the partnership was expanded to include wealth management and brokerage services.

(iii) The mutual fund industry in India is one of the fastest-growing sectors, with Assets Under Management (AUM) doubling from Rs 25.48 lakh crore in 2019 to Rs 66.67 lakh crore in 2024.

About Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL)

CEO: Hitesh Kumar Sethia

Headquarter : Mumbai

👉 Power Finance Corporation(PFC) has secured its largest foreign currency term loan to date, totaling USD 1.265 billion.

Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC), a Maharatna public sector enterprise and one of India's leading non-banking financial companies (NBFC), operating under the Ministry of Power, has secured its largest foreign currency loan of USD 1.265 billion.

- This transaction was executed through a facility agreement with several banks located in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- PFC intends to utilize these funds to finance projects unrelated to thermal power (coal-based), thereby promoting green and sustainable energy initiatives. This aligns with India's objectives of reducing carbon emissions and enhancing renewable energy capacity.

Main Points:-

SBI, IDBI, Axis, MUFG, Deutsche & SMBC were the bankers to the issue with SBI being the largest lender and also acting as facility agent for this transaction.

About Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC)

Chairman & MD: Parminder Chopra

Headquarters: New Delhi

👉 IFC has joined forces with Axis Bank to offer a USD 500 million loan aimed at financing green projects in India.

On October 7, 2024, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private lending arm of the World Bank Group (WBG), announced a partnership with Axis Bank Limited, India's leading private sector bank, to provide a USD 500 million loan (approximately Rs 4,200 crore). This funding aims to develop a blue finance market and scale up financing for green projects in India.

- In 2016, Axis Bank issued India's first green USD bond and, in 2021, the first sustainable USD Additional Tier 1 (AT1) bond.

Main Points:-

(i) Blue Loan - A blue loan is a financing instrument that raises money for projects that are ocean-friendly or related to clean water resources.

Padma Shri Award Keki N. Daruwalla, a distinguished English poet and former Indian Police Services (IPS) officer, passed away in September 2024 at the age of 87 in New Delhi. He was born on January 24, 1937, in Lahore, British India (now in Pakistan).

- Keki N. Daruwalla, an IPS officer from the 1958 batch of the Uttar Pradesh (UP) cadre, joined the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) and later rose to the rank of secretary at R&AW.

Main Points:-

- (i) He retired in 1995 as the chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) and served as a member of the National Commission for Minorities from 2011 to 2014.
- (ii) His first poetry collection, "Under Orion," was published in 1970.
- (iii) He received the UP State Award for his second book, "Apparition in April," in 1972.

DRDO has successfully conducted flight tests of the 4th generation Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) in Rajasthan.

On October 3rd and 4th, 2024, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted three flight tests of the advanced 4th Generation miniaturized Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) at the Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan, showcasing its capabilities against high-speed targets.

- VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Development cum Production Partners.

- These development trials demonstrated the weapon system's reliable hit-to-kill capability in various target engagement scenarios, including approaching, receding, and crossing modes.

Main Points:-

- (i) The tests were carried out using a ground-based portable launcher.
- (ii) Dr. Sameer V Kamat, Chairman, Department of Defense Research and Development (DRDO) also congratulated the DRDO team, industry partners and users for the successful flight tests.

About DRDO,

Chairman: Sameer V. Kamat
Headquarters: New Delhi

Udhayanidhi Stalin has officially taken oath as the Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

On September 29, 2024, Udhayanidhi Stalin, Tamil Nadu's Minister of Youth Welfare and Sports Development (YWSD), took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, a position that has been vacant since 2021.

- Udhayanidhi Stalin, the son of Chief Minister MK Stalin, began his political career in 2019 as the youth wing secretary of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). He was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from the Chepauk-Tiruvallikeni constituency in 2021 and later sworn in as the Minister of Youth Welfare and Sports Development in 2022.

Main Points:-

- (i) Governor R.N Ravi administered the oath to Udhayanidhi Stalin at Raj Bhavan.
- (ii) Before entering politics, Udhayanidhi spent a successful career as a producer and actor in the Tamil film industry. He started as a film distributor and founded the "Red Giant Movies" production house.

About Tamil Nadu

Chief minister: M K Stalin

Governor: R. N. Ravi

World Animal Day observed on 4 October 2024.

World Animal Day (WAD) is celebrated annually on October 4th to highlight the importance of animals and raise awareness about their welfare, contributing to ecological balance.

- In 1931, Zimmermann's proposal to officially designate October 4th as World Animal Day was accepted and enacted as a resolution during the International Animal Protection Congress held in Florence, Italy.

Main Points:-

- (i) The theme for World Animal Day 2024 is "The world is their home too."
- (ii) World Animal Day was proposed by cynologist and animal protection advocate Heinrich Zimmerman to promote animal welfare.

Organic farmer and Padma awardee Pappammal has passed away at the age of 109.

Padma Shri awardee Pappammal, also known as Rangammal, an Indian organic farmer from Tamil Nadu, has passed away at the age of 109. Born in 1914, she lived in Thekampatti near Mettupalayam, Coimbatore, TN.

- The Government of India honored her with the Padma Shri (Others) in 2021.

Main Points:-

- (i) She was associated with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) and organized various discussion forums for TNAU's extension department, educating thousands of farmers about TNAU's farming technologies and practices.
- (ii) Pappammal was a member of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and served as a ward member of the Thekkampatti Panchayat in 1959. She also served as a councillor in the Karamadal Panchayat Union.

Brian Lara Publishes Memoir Titled "LARA: The England Chronicles".

Former Trinidadian cricketer Brian Charles Lara, affectionately known as "The Prince of Port of Spain," has released his memoir titled "LARA: The England Chronicles." The book is published by the American publishing house Simon & Schuster LLC.

- This memoir provides an intimate look into Lara's childhood, his aspirations to play for the West Indies, his notable batting achievements, and his experiences as a captain. It also offers readers a detailed perspective on cricket in Trinidad and Tobago.

Main Points:-

- (i) Brian Lara represented the West Indies from 1990 to 2007, announcing his retirement from all forms of international cricket in 2007.
- (ii) He led the West Indies to victory in the 2004 International Cricket Council (ICC) Champions Trophy, marking the team's first major ICC trophy since their triumph in the 1979 Cricket World Cup.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw participated in the 40th Raising Day Parade of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in Nashik.

On October 4, 2024, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Railways, attended the 40th Raising Day Parade of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) at the Zonal Training Centre in Nashik, Maharashtra.

- As the Chief Guest, he presented Police Medals for Meritorious Service to 33 RPF personnel and honored them with Jeevan Raksha Medals for their bravery in saving passengers' lives during 2023 and 2024.

Main Points:-

- (i) The minister announced a grant of ₹35 crore for upgrading and modernizing RPF Zonal Training Centres, with a focus on improving facilities for women.
- (ii) An additional allocation of ₹5.5 crore was made to enhance training infrastructure at the RPF Dog Squad Zonal Training Centre in Tamil Nadu.

About Railway Protection Force (RPF),

Director General : Manoj Ydava

Headquarters: New Delhi

South Korean author Han Kang has won the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2024.

South Korean writer and novelist Han Kang has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature 2024 "for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life."

- She is the first South Korean to win a Nobel Prize in literature and the second Nobel laureate from South Korea, following former President Kim Dae Jung, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000.

Main Points:-

(i) The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden announced the award on October 10, 2024.

(ii) Han Kang began her career in 1993 with the publication of a number of poems in the magazine 'Literature and Society'.

👉 **Indian IPS Officer Pritpal Kaur Selected as Only Indian for '2024 IACP 40 Under 40' Award.**

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), based in the United States, has selected Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Pritpal Kaur, Superintendent of Police (SP) of Phek district (Nagaland), for the '2024 IACP 40 Under 40' award. She is the only Indian chosen for this year's award.

- Pritpal Kaur is among 40 police officers selected from six countries worldwide for this honor.
- The professionals recognized as '40 Under 40' awardees are seen as rising leaders in policing, regardless of their rank or title. They have served their agencies, colleagues, and communities with excellence, whether as professional staff, patrol officers, investigators, supervisors, or chiefs of police.

Main Points:-

(i) Indian IPS Officer Pritpal Kaur has been invited to Boston, Massachusetts (USA) to receive the '2024 IACP 40 Under 40' award on October 22, 2024.

About International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

President: John Letteney

Headquarters: Alexandria, Virginia, United States

👉 **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has been honored with the Asia HRD Lifetime Achievement Award.**

Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin (MK Stalin), Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, has been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Asia Human Resource Development (Asia HRD) Academy in recognition of his outstanding contributions to human resource management.

- The award was given by Fahmi Jowder (former Minister of Bahrain and Chairman of the Asia HRD Award Committee) and Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik (Vice Chairman of the Asia HRD Awards Committee and former President of the Maldives) at the Chief Secretariat (Chief Secretariat) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Main Points:-

(i) Asia HRD awards are presented in five categories: Lifetime Achievement, Contribution to Society, Contribution to Organization, Contribution to HR Community, and Movers and Shakers, each with its own set of criteria.

(ii) Previous recipients include notable leaders such as Fidel V. Ramos (Philippines), Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud (Malaysia), and Haris Silajdzic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), among others.

👉 Gujarat's SVPI Airport has received the Platinum Award for Energy Efficiency at the SEEMS Award.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) Airport in Ahmedabad, Gujarat managed by Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL), a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises has won the Platinum Award in the Airport Sector under the Facility Category at the Society of Energy Engineers and Managers (SEEM) Awards held in New Delhi.

- This award highlights the airport's commitment to creating a greener and more sustainable facility.
- SVPI Airport received the award for its sustainable and energy-efficient initiatives, such as installing an efficient centrifugal chiller, which resulted in a 30% energy saving.

Main Points:-

The airport also replaced eight Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles with Electric Vehicles (EVs), leading to annual diesel savings of approximately 5,000 liters.

👉 Bihar CM Nitish Kumar unveils Logo, Mascot for Women's Asian Champions Trophy-2024.

Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar, unveiled the logo and mascot named "Gudiya" for the Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024, scheduled to be held from November 11 to 20, 2024, in Rajgir, Bihar. Notably, the Bihar cabinet has sanctioned ₹10 crore to Hockey India for hosting the championship.

- The mascot is inspired by the house sparrow, an endangered species and the state bird of Bihar. It represents resilience, strength, and natural heritage.
- Gudiya, holding a hockey stick, symbolizes the sport, while the goalkeeper's glove and nearby hockey ball represent strategy and teamwork, highlighting the government's commitment to women's empowerment.

Main Points:-

(i) The 2024 Women's Asian Champions Trophy is the 8th edition of this biennial field hockey tournament, featuring the six best Asian women's national teams.

(ii) The event is organized by Hockey India and the Bihar Government, with support from the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF).

(iii) India has previously won the championship in 2016 and 2023.

👉 Breast Cancer Awareness Month: October 1–31, 2024.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM) is celebrated globally from October 1 to 31 each year to raise awareness about breast cancer and its worldwide impact.

- Breast Cancer Awareness Month, held in October every year, aims to promote screening and prevention of the disease, which affects one in eight women in the United States every year and 2.3 million women worldwide.
- BCAM was first observed in October 1985, initiated by the American Cancer Society (ACS) and the pharmaceutical division of Imperial Chemical Industries.

Main Points:-

The theme for Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2024 is "No one should face breast cancer alone," emphasizing the vital support needed for individuals diagnosed with breast cancer and the challenges they may encounter in isolation.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma has launched the GREEN Meghalaya Plus Scheme.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Kongkal Sangma launched the GREEN (Grassroot level Response Towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing) Meghalaya Plus (GMP) Scheme in Tura, West Garo Hills District. This scheme provides financial incentives of up to Rs 20,000 per hectare annually to communities and individuals involved in forest conservation.

- This initiative reflects the government's strong commitment to sustainable development and environmental preservation.
- The scheme works through eco-friendly development projects to fight climate change, preserve biodiversity and improve the livelihoods of local communities.
- The state government has allocated Rs 200 crore for future forest conservation activities.

Main Points:-

- (i) The guidelines have been updated, reducing the minimum land requirement from 2 hectares to 1 hectare, allowing smaller landowners and communities to participate, and thus making the program more inclusive.
- (ii) Additionally, an additional reward of Rs 5,000 per hectare is available for community reserve areas and Rs 2,000 per hectare for sacred trees located in very dense forests or eco-sensitive areas.

About Meghalaya

Chief minister: Conrad Sangma
Governor: C. H. Vijayashankar

David Baker, Demis Hassabis, and John Jumper have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2024.

American biochemist David Baker, Demis Hassabis, CEO of DeepMind Technologies Limited (a subsidiary of Google), and American chemist John Jumper received this honor from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden, on October 9, 2024.

- David Baker was recognized "for computational protein design," while Demis Hassabis and John Jumper were awarded "for protein structure prediction."

Main Points:-

- (i) David Baker has accomplished the remarkable feat of designing entirely new types of proteins, showcasing innovative advancements in protein engineering.
- (ii) Demis Hassabis and John Jumper have created an AI model that addresses a 50-year-old challenge in science: predicting the complex structures of proteins. These groundbreaking discoveries hold immense potential for future applications.
- (iii) The prize amount is 11 million Swedish kronor, with half going to David Baker and the other half shared between Demis Hassabis and John Jumper.

The government has assigned the additional charge of RINL's CMD to Ajit Kumar Saxena.

Ajit Kumar Saxena has been appointed as the additional Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Vizag Steel), a Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) based in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. He will assume this new role immediately.

- Ajit Kumar Saxena is currently the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of MOIL(Manganese Ore (India) Limited), a PSU under the Ministry of Steel.
- He will take charge in the absence of Atul Bhatt who has been on leave until 30th November.

Main Points:-

- (i) Additionally, since Atul Bhatt will retire on 30th November, Saxena will take on extra responsibilities to enhance the conditions and growth of RINL.
- (ii) A steel ministry document reveals that RINL is facing significant financial difficulties. The company has been operating at minimal capacity and incurring ongoing losses. Its total dues have exceeded ₹35,000 crore, putting it at risk of being classified as a non-performing asset by banks.

About Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL)

Founded: 1982

Headquarters: Visakhapatnam

Martin Schlegel Appointed Chairman of the Swiss National Bank's Governing Board, Succeeds Thomas Jordan.

On October 1, 2024, Martin Schlegel assumed the role of Chairman of the Governing Board of the Swiss National Bank (SNB), succeeding Thomas Jordan. He also took charge as the Head of SNB's Department I in Zurich, Switzerland.

- Schlegel had previously served as the Vice Chairman of the Governing Board and led SNB's Department II since 2022. He joined the SNB in 2003 and was an Alternate Member of the Governing Board from 2018 to 2022.

- During its meeting on 26 June 2024, the Federal Council appointed Martin Schlegel as the new Chairman of the SNB's Governing Board, effective from 1 October 2024.

Main Points:-

Antoine Martin was appointed Vice-President of the Governing Board and Head of Department II in Bern. Petra Tschudin was named the new member of the Governing Board and head of Department III in Zurich.

About Swiss National Bank

Chairman: Martin Schlegel

Headquarters: Bern and Zürich

👉 **Mumbai Cricket Team Claims Irani Cup Title for the 15th Time in the 2024-25 Season.**

The Mumbai Cricket Team, captained by Ajinkya Rahane, won the 2024-25 Irani Cup, the 61st edition of this important first-class tournament in India. They defeated the Rest of India Team, led by Ruturaj Gaikwad, based on their first-innings lead. This victory marks Mumbai's 15th Irani Cup title and their first since 1997.

- The tournament was held from October 1 to 5, 2024, at the Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Main Points:-

(i) For their win, the Mumbai Team received ₹50 lakhs from the BCCI and an extra ₹1 crore from the Mumbai Cricket Association.

(ii) Karnataka are the second-most successful domestic team in the Irani Cup, winning six titles from eight editions.

👉 **International Day of Older Persons is observed on October 1.**

The United Nations (UN) International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) is celebrated worldwide on October 1 each year to acknowledge the vital contributions of older individuals, defined as those aged 65 and above.

- October 1, 2024, marks the 34th anniversary of IDOP.

Main Points:-

(i) The theme for IDOP 2024 is "Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide."

(ii) This theme emphasizes the urgent need to enhance care systems in response to the aging global population, focusing on the significant demographic shift toward older age groups.

👉 **Padma Awardee Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons has passed away.**

Veteran Indian industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Naval Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, passed away at the age of 86 at Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born on December 28, 1937, in Bombay Presidency, British India (now known as

Mumbai).

- Ratan Tata was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian honor, in 2000, and the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian honor, in 2008 by the Government of India for his outstanding contributions to trade and industry.
- Karnataka Minister G Parameshwara on Thursday paid a heartfelt tribute to Ratan Tata, hailing him as a pioneer who transformed India's industry landscape and built a strong foundation for Indian industries.

Main Points:-

- (i) He was bestowed with the Oslo Business for Peace Award in 2010.
- (ii) Under Ratan Tata's leadership, Tata Motors launched the Tata Indica, India's first indigenously designed passenger car, in 1998.

World Teachers' Day observed on 5 October.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) celebrates World Teacher's Day (WTD) each year on October 5 to honor the crucial contributions of teachers and their role in shaping future generations.

- This day highlights the challenges faced by teachers, raises awareness of their vital role, and allows students to express gratitude for their impactful guidance.

Main Points:-

- (i) The theme for World Teacher's Day 2024 is "Valuing Teacher Voices: Towards a New Social Contract for Education."
- (ii) World Teachers' Day was established by UNESCO in 1994.

International Day of Non-Violence - October 2, 2024

The International Day of Non-Violence, observed annually on October 2, commemorates the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of the Indian Independence Movement known for his philosophy of non-violence and peace.

- October 2, 2024, marks the 155th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth and the 18th International Day of Non-Violence.

Main Points:-

- (i) This day was established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through resolution A/RES/61/271 on June 15, 2007, following a proposal by Iranian Nobel Laureate Shirin Ebadi in June 2004.
- (ii) In India, October 2 is observed as "Gandhi Jayanti".

John J. Hopfield and Geoffrey E. Hinton were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics 2024.

American physicist John J. Hopfield and British-Canadian computer scientist Geoffrey E. Hinton were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics 2024 by the Royal Swedish Academy of

Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden, on October 8, 2024.

- Hopfield created an associative memory system that can store and reconstruct data patterns. In contrast, Hinton developed techniques enabling networks to autonomously identify data characteristics and carry out tasks like image recognition.

Main Points:-

- (i) The prize amount of 11 million Swedish kronor will be equally divided between the laureates.
- (ii) John J. Hopfield and Geoffrey E. Hinton were received the award "for foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks."

India emerged victorious in the 2-match Test series against Bangladesh during their 2024 tour.

The Bangladesh cricket team, led by Najmul Hossain Shanto, is touring India in September and October 2024 to compete against India. The tour features 2 Test matches and 3 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is).

- The Indian Men's Cricket team, captained by Rohit Sharma, won the two-match Test series against Bangladesh with a 2-0 scoreline.

Main Points:-

- (i) This victory marks Team India's 180th win in Test history.
- (ii) With this win, India secured 4th place on the list of most Test victories, which is topped by Australia (414), followed by England (397) and West Indies (183).

American biologists Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for 2024.

Victor Ambros (an American developmental biologist) and Gary Bruce Ruvkun (an American molecular biologist) were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2024 by the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden.

- They were honored "for the discovery of microRNA and its role in post-transcriptional gene regulation."

- Ruvkun and Ambros discovered the first microRNA and published their findings in the journal Cell in 1993. This discovery sparked a scientific revolution. Their work has had a significant impact on scientists around the world, helping to guide research on diseases like cancer and diabetes.

Main Points:-

- (i) The award announcement was made by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences on October 7, 2024.

International Translation Day 2024 is observed on September 30.

The United Nations (UN) observes International Translation Day (ITD) every year on September

30 to honor the contributions of language professionals. Their work is essential for uniting nations, fostering communication, understanding, cooperation, supporting development, and enhancing global peace and security.

- On May 24, 2017, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution establishing this day. Eleven countries signed this resolution, recognizing the importance of the work done by language experts.
- September 30 was chosen to commemorate these experts because it coincides with the feast day of St. Jerome, who is credited with translating the Bible. He was a priest from northeastern Italy who translated Greek manuscripts of the New Testament into Latin.

Main Points:-

(i) The theme for ITD 2024 is "Translation, an art worth protecting: Moral and Material Rights for Indigenous Languages."

Iran has unveiled the powerful suicide drone known as 'Shahed-136B.'

Iran, for the first time, showcased the "Shahed 136B," a one-way attack drone known as a 'kamikaze' or 'suicide' drone, alongside the "Jihad," a single-stage liquid-fuel ballistic missile, during the Armed Forces military parade in September 2024. This event commemorated the anniversary of the start of the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

- The Shahed 136B, the latest Iranian-made drone, is an upgraded version of the Shahed-136, featuring new enhancements and an operational range of over 4,000 kilometers.
- Due to its compact design, the Shahed-136 can be transported in large numbers and quickly deployed from moving vehicles.

Main Points:-

The Jihad missile has a high-explosive detachable warhead and a range of 1,000 kilometers. It was designed and manufactured by the aerospace division of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

Tata Electronics and Taiwan's PSMC have finalized an agreement for technology transfer to establish India's first semiconductor fabrication plant.

Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) has finalized a Definitive Agreement with Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC) for the establishment of India's first semiconductor fabrication plant in Dholera, Gujarat. This facility will be AI-enabled and built as a greenfield project.

- PSMC will provide a comprehensive range of technologies and engineering support to facilitate the transfer of these technologies to the new fab in Gujarat.
- The project entails a total investment of up to Rs 91,000 crores (USD 11 billion) and is expected to generate over 20,000 skilled jobs, both directly and indirectly.

Main Points:-

The semiconductor fab will produce chips for various applications, including Power Management Integrated Circuits (ICs), Display Drivers, Microcontroller Units (MCUs), and high-performance computing logic, catering to the increasing demand in sectors such as AI, automotive, computing, data storage, and wireless communication.

World Heart Day (WHD) is celebrated globally on September 29, 2024.

World Heart Day (WHD) is celebrated globally on September 29 each year to raise awareness about cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), including heart disease and stroke, and to encourage actions for their prevention, detection, and management.

- Cardiovascular diseases remain a significant global health challenge responsible for over 18 million deaths each year.
- The burden is especially significant in the WHO South-East Asia Region, where cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) cause 3.9 million deaths each year, mainly from heart attacks and strokes. This accounts for 30% of all deaths in the region, with almost half occurring prematurely, before the age of 70.

Main Points:-

(i) The theme for World Heart Day 2024 is "Use Heart for Action."

The Tripura government has launched the CM-SATH Scheme to assist meritorious students in pursuing higher education.

Prof. Dr. Manik Saha, the Chief Minister of Tripura, inaugurated this scheme, which aims to provide financial support to deserving students.

- Under the scheme, financial assistance of ₹60,000 (₹5,000 per month) will be granted to a total of 200 students—100 at the Madhyamik level for two years and 100 at the Higher Secondary level for three years.
- The initiative is designed to support talented students and ensure that financial challenges do not impede their education.

Main Points:-

(i) The selection will include 152 students from the block level, 12 from the Nagar Panchayat level, 26 from the Municipal Council level, and 10 from the Agartala Municipal Corporation level, ensuring representation from various areas and levels.

(ii) This support is merit-based to encourage higher education, with beneficiaries selected by the District Education Officer of each district.

DFC invests USD 272 million in India to Boost Economic Growth.

The U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has committed over USD 272 million to support India's economic growth and sustainability.

- This commitment reflects the strengthening partnership between the United States and India, particularly in promoting gender equality and sustainable development.
- It underscores the DFC's role in enhancing economic opportunities for millions and contributes to global efforts to combat climate change.

Main Points:-

- (i) This investment includes significant allocations, such as a USD 40 million loan to APAC Financial Services Private Limited, based in Mumbai (Maharashtra), aimed at expanding lending to low-income and microenterprises.
- (ii) The DFC has allocated USD 19.8 million to Aryatech Platforms Pvt. Ltd., based in Noida (Uttar Pradesh). This investment will enhance agricultural trade by connecting small farmers with buyers and streamlining financing in the agricultural sector.

About International Development Finance Corporation (DFC),

CEO : Scott Nathan

Headquarters: Washington, United States

MoLE and Amazon have signed a MoU to improve employment accessibility in India.

On September 26, 2024, the Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Amazon in New Delhi to enhance employment accessibility in India.

- The MoU emphasizes a joint commitment to utilizing the National Career Service (NCS) portal to increase job opportunities. This portal is being developed as a one-stop platform for accessing employment opportunities across various sectors and industries.
- The enhanced platform will provide a user-friendly interface for job seekers, employers, and stakeholders, leveraging advanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Main Points:-

- (i) Key People: The MoU, which is set to last for two years, was signed in the presence of Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of State (MoS) Shobha Karandlaje, both from MoLE.
- (ii) Under this MoU, Amazon and its third-party staffing agencies involved in hiring for the company will regularly post job vacancies on the NCS portal and conduct hiring through it.

About MoLE,

Secretary(L&E) : Sumita Dawra

Headquarters: Rafi Marg, New Delhi

DRDO and IIT Delhi Develop ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat) Lightweight Bulletproof Jackets

The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, has developed the 'ABHED' (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat), a lightweight bulletproof jacket.

- The jacket is constructed from polymers and indigenous boron carbide ceramic material. The armor plates have successfully passed all necessary Research and Development (R&D) trials according to established protocols.
- The jacket weighs 8.2 kilograms (kgs) and 9.5 kgs for different Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) levels.

Main Points:-

ABHED was created at the DRDO Industry Academia Center of Excellence (DIA-CoE) at IIT Delhi.

Government launched Prime Minister's Internship Scheme 2024.

On October 3, 2024, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is collaborating with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) to launch the pilot phase of the "Prime Minister's Internship Scheme 2024." This initiative, part of the 2024-2025 budget, aims to provide 1.25 lakh internships for Indian youth, with a budget of approximately Rs 800 crore for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).

- The scheme's goal is to create one crore internships by March 2029, offering financial assistance of Rs 60,000 per annum over five years.
- It will be implemented in two phases via an online portal (www.pminternship.mca.gov.in), with registration opening from October 12 to October 25, 2024.

Main Points:-

(i) Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements can apply online through the official portal to benefit from the Prime Minister Internship Scheme.

(ii) Selected participants will receive a monthly stipend of Rs. 4,500 from the government, with an additional Rs. 500 provided by companies as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.