

22nd October 2024**PM's Visits to Varanasi**

On 20th October 2024, the Prime Minister of India laid the foundation stone and inaugurated multiple development projects in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- ❖ **Expansion of airport:** PM Modi laid the foundation stone for key expansions at **Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport**, encompassing enhancements to the runway and the construction of a new terminal, requiring an investment of around Rs 2,870 crore.
- ❖ **New Airports:** Airport projects in **Agra, Darbhanga, and Bagdogra** have been announced, with investments exceeding **Rs 570 crore, approximately Rs 910 crore, and about Rs 1,550 crore respectively**. New terminal facilities in Rewa, Ambikapur, and Saharanpur are currently in progress, collectively augmenting the annual passenger capacity to over 2.3 crore.
- ❖ **Varanasi Sports Complex:** PM also inaugurated **phases 2 and 3 of the Varanasi Sports Complex redevelopments**, as part of the Khelo India scheme and Smart City mission, with an investment exceeding Rs 210 crore.
 - The complex will include a National Centre of Excellence, player accommodations, a sports science center, and various sports facilities.
- ❖ **R J Sankara Eye Hospital:** PM Modi unveiled the **R J Sankara Eye Hospital in Varanasi. It will be operated by Kanchi Math.**

- This eye hospital will provide comprehensive consultations and treatments to residents of 20 districts in eastern Uttar Pradesh, as well as those in the border regions of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.



- ❖ **Other Projects:** Projects such as a 100-bed hostel at Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Sports Stadium and enhancements in tourism at Sarnath were unveiled, focusing on improving infrastructure in Buddhist heritage areas. This includes pedestrian-friendly streets, modern sewer systems, and a zone for local handicraft vendors.
 - He launched tourism initiatives at Banasur Temple and Gurudham Temple, as well as beautification projects for local parks.

ITU Kaleidoscope

The 15th ITU Kaleidoscope Academic Conference begins in New Delhi.

Key Points

- ❖ **Theme of the conference:** "Innovation and Digital Transformation for a Sustainable World".
- ❖ **Organsier:** Organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- ❖ **Time span:** This prestigious event will be held from October 21 to 23, 2024.

- ❖ It brings together the brightest minds in academia, industry, and government to discuss cutting-edge developments in 5G, AI, IoT, quantum communications, and other transformative technologies.

About ITU Kaleidoscope

- ❖ ITU Kaleidoscope is an annual event that has been instrumental in bridging the gap between academia and industry, promoting the exchange of ideas that contribute to the global standardization of telecommunications technologies.
- ❖ It was first held in 2008.

eShram-One Stop Solution

On 21st October 2024, the Central government launched the 'eShram-One Stop Solution' initiative.

Key Points

- ❖ The initiative is to facilitate easier access of government schemes to unorganised workers.
- ❖ **Aim:** It aims to integrate information of beneficiaries of all social security and welfare schemes meant for unorganised workers in an effective manner through a single platform.
- ❖ The initiative will act as a mediator to ensure that unorganized workers have easy access to a variety of Government schemes and programmes.
- ❖ This **initiative will help unorganized workers become aware of the schemes designed for them.**

5th National Water Awards 2023

On October 22nd 2024, the President of India conferred the 5th National Water Awards 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Key Points

- ❖ On 14th October 2024, the **Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti** announced the 38 winners, including joint winners, for the 5th National Water Awards, 2023, in **09 categories viz:**
 - Best State
 - Best District
 - Best Village Panchayat
 - Best Urban Local Body
 - Best School or College
 - Best Industry
 - Best Water User Association
 - Best Institution (other than school or college), and
 - Best Civil Society.

Best State Category

1st	Odisha
2nd	Uttar Pradesh
3rd (Join winner)	Puducherry
3rd (Join winner)	Gujarat

Best District Category- Zone wise

South	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
North-East	Dhalai, Tripura
North	Banda (Joint Winner), Uttar pradesh
North	Ganderbal (Joint Winner), Jammu Kashmir
West	Indore, Madhya Pradesh
East	Balangir, Odisha

Best Village Category

1st	Pullampara, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
2nd	Masulpani, Kanker, Chhattisgarh
3rd	Hampapuram, Anantapur (Joint Winner), Andhra Pradesh
3rd	Khliehrangnah, West Jaintia Hills (Joint Winner), Meghalaya

Best Urban local Body

1st	Surat, Gujarat
2nd	Puri, Odisha
3rd	Pune, Maharashtra

Best School or College

1st	Govt. Upper Primary School, Jethwanka Bas, Rajasthan
2nd	Govt. Sarvodya Kanya Vidyalaya, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi
3rd	Khairbani Ashram School, Baisinga Odisha BHSS, Zainakote
Special Mention	BHSS, Zainakote Jammu & Kashmir

Best Industry

1st	Aravali Power Company Private Limited, Haryana
2nd	Apollo Tyres Limited, Tamil Nadu
3rd	Raymond Uco Denim Pvt Ltd, Maharashtra

Best water user Association

1st	Pentakli Project Union of Water User Association, Maharashtra
2nd	Water User Cooperative Society, Karnataka
3rd	Perambur Big Tank Water User Association Tamil Nadu

Best Institution (Other than school/College)

1st	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Tamil Nadu
2nd	Koner Lakshmaiah Education Foundation, Andhra Pradesh
3rd	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (Joint Winner), Tamil Nadu
3rd	Sri Tirumala Nagar Resident Welfare Association, Andhra Pradesh
Special Mention	IIT Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh
Special Mention	Birla Institute of Science and Technology, Rajasthan

Best Civil society

1st	BAIF Development Research Foundation, Maharashtra
2nd	Yuva Mitra, Mitrangan Campus, Maharashtra
3rd	Gramin Vikas Trust, Gujarat
Special	Art of Living, Vyakti Vikas Kendra

Mention	India, Karnataka
Special Mention	S. M. Sehgal Foundation (Special Mention) Haryana

About National Water Awards

- ❖ The National Water Awards (NWAs) focus on the good work and efforts made by individuals and the organizations across the country in attaining the government’s vision of a ‘Jal Samridh Bharat’.
- ❖ The awards are for creating awareness among the people about the importance of water and motivating them to adopt best water usage practices.
- ❖ The 1st National Water Awards were launched in 2018 by the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR).
- ❖ The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th National Water Awards were given for the years 2019, 2020 and 2022. The awards were not given in the year 2021 due to CoVID pandemic.

Akshayavat Corridor

As preparations for Maha Kumbh 2025 progress, the Yogi government is accelerating the beautification of the Akshayavat Corridor, aiming to enhance the spiritual experience for millions of pilgrims.

Key Points

- ❖ Akshayavat, a 300-year-old tree of great mythological significance in Sanatan Dharma, is considered a crucial stop for pilgrims. It is believed that after bathing in the sacred waters of Sangam, one’s pilgrimage is complete only after offering prayers at Akshayavat.

- ❖ When Lord Rama visited Bharadwaj Muni’s ashram in Sangam Nagari during his journey to the forest, Muni narrated the significance of the Banyan tree. Mother Sita blessed the Banyan tree, and it was the only tree to survive when the earth submerged during the deluge. This sacred tree is known today as Akshayavat.
- ❖ Akshayavat is also mentioned in the ‘Raghuvansh’ by the great poet Kalidas, as well as in the travelogue of Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang.
- ❖ It is believed that just seeing Akshayavat grants one ‘akshaya punya’ (eternal virtue). India is home to four such ancient Banyan trees: Akshayavat in Prayagraj, Griddhavat in Soron (Shukar Kshetra), Siddhavat in Ujjain, and Vanshivat in Vrindavan.

Short News- Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ UP govt developing mobile app-based water monitoring management system. The development of this state-of-the-art app-based system has been entrusted to UP Electronics Corporation Limited (UPLC).
- ❖ According to data from the Jal Jeevan Mission, in Uttar Pradesh the deaths due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) have plummeted from 149 in 2018 (comprising 137 AES-related and 12 JE-related fatalities) to zero as of October 2024.

- The first case of JE in Uttar Pradesh was reported in 1978. Over the next two decades, more than 30 per cent of those affected succumbed to the disease, with children in the eastern districts of the state being the hardest hit.
- JE, caused by the bite of Culex mosquitoes, and AES, commonly known as brain fever, became a persistent threat.
- ❖ With the aim of enhancing combat capabilities through the integration of niche and emerging technologies, the Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps of Southern Command conducted 'Exercise SWAVLAMBAN SHAKTI' at Babina Field Firing Ranges near Jhansi.

Person In News- Appointment

Smt. Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar



She has been appointed as **Chairperson of the National Commission for Women.**

She is the 9th Chairperson of NCW.

The National Commission for Women was set up as a statutory body in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 (Act No. 20 of 1990 of Govt.of India) to :review the Constitutional and Legal safeguards for women and advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women.

Military Exercises

Naseem-Al-Bahr

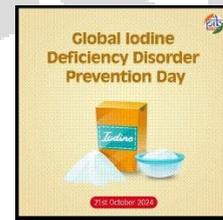
India Oman bilateral naval exercise

- ❖ Bilateral exercise between **India and Oman** was held in **Goa** from **13-18th October 2024.**
- ❖ **INS Trikand and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft**, participated in the exercise.
- ❖ The exercise was conducted in two phases: **with harbour phase from 13 to 15 October 2024, followed by the sea phase conducted from 16 to 18 Oct 2024.**

Important Days/Dates

October 21

World Iodine Deficiency Day



- ❖ It is also known as **Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day.**
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about **the essential role of iodine in maintaining good health and to emphasize the consequences of iodine deficiency.**
- ❖ Iodine is an essential component of the thyroid hormones, thyroxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3), which regulate metabolism and are crucial for fetal and infant development.
- ❖ Recognizing the serious health implications of iodine deficiency, the Government of India initiated national efforts to combat the problem through the **National Goitre Control Programme (NGCP) in 1962.**

- ❖ In 1992, the program was broadened and renamed the **National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP)** to cover a wider range of iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) and ensure its implementation across all States and Union Territories.

October 21

Police Commemoration Day



- ❖ October 21 is observed as **“Police Commemoration Day”** across the country to pay homage to police martyrs.
- ❖ On **October 21, 1959, ten valiant Policemen laid down their lives** in an ambush laid by heavily armed Chinese troops at Hot Springs, Ladakh.
- ❖ October 21 is observed in commemoration of these martyrs and of all other martyrs who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.
- ❖ The **National Police Memorial is situated in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi**. It was dedicated to the nation on Police Commemoration Day-2018 by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.



Miscellaneous

- ❖ The Union Minister for Health Inaugurated the **“Medicine Update BJMFCON 2024”**, organized by the Bihar & Jharkhand Medical Forum (BJMF).
 - **Bihar & Jharkhand Medical Forum (BJMF)** is a socio-scientific organization of doctors from the states of Bihar & Jharkhand practicing in the Delhi NCR Region for long and serving the people of the region. The first Medicine Update was held in 2023. The 2nd Medicine Update BJMFCON was held on 20th October 2024.
- ❖ Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh released the Jammu related data of the ‘first of its kind’ world's largest survey **'ICMR-India Diabetes 'INDIAB'** Study to assess the prevalence of Diabetes in India, including Jammu & Kashmir in Jammu.
- ❖ The **2nd National Lighthouse Festival** was observed across the country's 75 historic Lighthouses on 19 and 20 October 2024. To mark the start of the Festival, a Lighthouse Tourism Conclave 2024 was held in Puri, Odisha, on 19 October 2024.

