

International Relations

USISPF India Leadership Summit 2024

Why in the news?

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) hosted its annual 'India Leadership Summit 2024' in New Delhi.



- ❖ **Objective:** To enhance bilateral trade, supply chains, semiconductor investment, AI and next-gen technologies cooperation.
 - To bolster defence ties, promote clean energy and secure a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Economy

12th CII Bioenergy Summit

Why in the news?

The 12th CII Bioenergy Summit was recently held in New Delhi.

- ❖ Theme of the summit: "Fuelling the Future - Securing India's Green Growth Goals".

Key points from the summit:



- ❖ Ethanol blending in petrol has surged from 1.53% in 2014 to 15% in 2024, with a target to reach 20% by 2025.
 - Research is underway to explore blending 15% ethanol in diesel as well, as part of the government's strategy to reduce fossil fuel dependency.
- ❖ 400 ethanol pumps have been established by Indian Oil Corporation in four states—Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

Science And Technology

Europa Clipper Mission

Why in the news?

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched its most ambitious planetary mission to Jupiter's icy moon Europa on 14th October, 2024.

- ❖ It was launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida aboard a Falcon Heavy rocket.
- ❖ **Aim of the mission:** To investigate Europa's surface to explore the potential for life beneath the icy crust of Jupiter's moon.
 - According to scientists, Europa contains a vast subsurface ocean that has more water than all the Earth's oceans combined which is a key target in the search for extraterrestrial life.

Europa Clipper will join Juno and JUICE missions:

- ❖ NASA's Juno orbiting Jupiter since July 2016 and ESA's Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) launched in April 2023.
- ❖ The Europa Clipper will complete the triad of missions, and it is expected to arrive in Jupiter in **April 2030**, beating JUICE to its destination by about a year, all thanks to differing trajectories.



Defence And Security

SAMARTHAK

Why in the news?

The first ship of the two Multi-Purpose Vessel projects, being built by L&T, Shipyard for the Indian Navy, was launched on 14 Oct 2024 at L&T, Kattupalli.

- ❖ It has been named 'Samarthak' which means 'Supporter'.

About the Multi-Purpose Vessels:

- ❖ It will be capable of towing ships, launching and recovering various targets, operate uncrewed autonomous vehicles.
- ❖ It will act as a trial platform for various indigenous weapons and sensors under development.
- ❖ They can achieve a maximum speed of 15 knots and are 106 m long and 16.8 m wide.



Awards and Honors

Nobel Prize in Economics 2024

Why in the news?

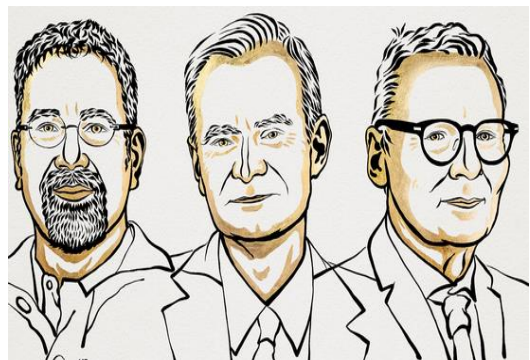
Simon Johnson and James Robinson, both British-American and Turkish-American Daron Acemoglu have been awarded "Nobel Prize in Economics 2024"

- ❖ Acemoglu and Johnson work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, while Robinson works at the University of Chicago
- ❖ They have been awarded "for studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity".

About the Nobel Prize in Economics:

- ❖ The prize in economic sciences is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden

- It is not one of the original prizes for science, literature and peace created by the will of dynamite inventor and businessman Alfred Nobel.
- It is a later addition established and funded by Sweden's central bank in 1968.
- ❖ In 1968, Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden's central bank) established the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel.
 - It is based on a donation received by the Nobel Foundation in 1968 from Sveriges Riksbank on the occasion of the bank's 300th anniversary.
 - The prize amount is the same as for the Nobel Prizes and is paid by the Riksbank.
 - The first prize in economic sciences was awarded to Ragnar Frisch and Jan Tinbergen in 1969.





5th National Water Awards

Why in the news?

The Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti has announced the 5th National Water Awards, in 2023.

- ❖ **Classification of winners:** A total of 38 winners, including Joint winners, covering 09 different categories have been selected for the 5th NWA, 2023.

Categories	Winners
Best State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The first prize has been conferred upon Odisha, ❖ Uttar Pradesh secured the second position ❖ Gujarat and Puducherry jointly secured the third position.
Best District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ South Zone winner: Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). ❖ West Zone winner: Indore (Madhya Pradesh) ❖ North Zone winner: Joint winners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Banda (Uttar Pradesh). ➤ Ganderbal (Jammu and Kashmir). ❖ North East Zone winner: Dhalai (Tripura). ❖ East Zone Winner: Balangir (Odisha).
Best Village Panchayat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Pullampara, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
Best Urban Local Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ First Winner: Surat (Gujarat). ❖ Second winner: Puri (Odisha). ❖ Third winner: Pune (Maharashtra).
Best School or College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ GOVT. UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL, JETHWAN KA BAS, Sikar, Rajasthan
Best Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ARAVALI POWER COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED (APCPL), JHAJJAR, HARYANA
Best Water Use Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Pentakli Project Union of Water User ❖ Association, Buldhana, Maharashtra.
Best Institution (other than school or college)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.
Best Civil Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ BAIF Development Research Foundation, Pune.

About National Water Awards:

- ❖ It focuses on the good work and efforts made by individuals and organizations across the country in attaining the government's vision of a 'Jal Samridh Bharat'.
- The 1st National Water Awards were launched in 2018 by the 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.

Important Days/ Dates

World Students Day 2024

Why in the news?

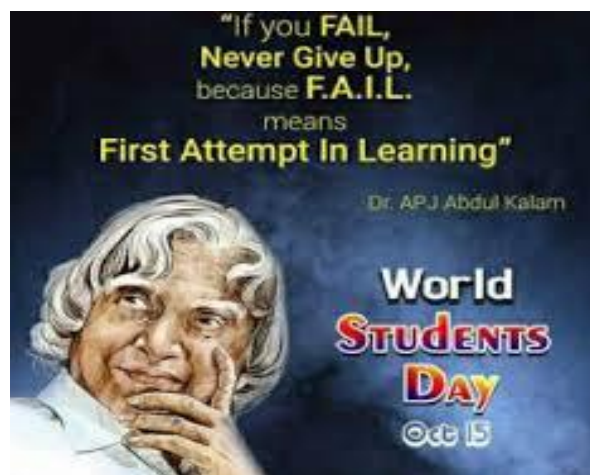
World Students Day is observed on 15th October every year.

- ❖ **Objective:** To honour the contributions of the former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam in the field of education.
- ❖ **History of this day:** To commemorate Dr. Kalam's birthday, the United Nations declared October 15 to be World Student's Day in 2010.

- ❖ **Theme 2024:** Empowering Students to be Agents of Change.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

- ❖ **Birth of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam**
(October 15, 1931)
 - Dr Kalam was born in Rameswaram, India.
 - He later became a prominent scientist and served as the 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007
- ❖ Known as the 'Missile Man of India', he played a pivotal role in India's space and missile programmes
- ❖ His dedication to education and youth empowerment left a lasting legacy, inspiring millions of students around the world.



News in Short

- ❖ **Kumar Anugraha Prasad Sinha** has been appointed as the chief secretary of Punjab.
 - He belongs to Indaut village of Hilsa block of Nalanda district in Bihar.
 - He is a 1992 batch IAS officer.
- ❖ **Surgeon Vice Admiral Kavita Sahai**, SM, VSM has assumed charge as Director General Medical Services (Navy).

- ❖ **Maiya Samman Yojana: Flagship scheme of Jharkhand Government.**
 - The monthly aid given to women under the scheme has been increased from Rs. 1000 per month to Rs 2500 per month.
- ❖ India's first Demonstration Facility for Biopolymers has been built by Praj Industries in Pune, Maharashtra.



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