

22 October 2024

9th Chairperson of National Commission for Women: Vijaya Rahatkar



Key Points:

- ❖ The Government of India appointed Mrs Vijaya Rahatkar as the 9th chairperson of the National Commission for Women on 19 October 2024.
- ❖ The post was vacant after the term of Rekha Sharma ended on 6 August 2024. Vijaya Rahatkar will take over as the chairperson of the National Commission for Women with immediate effect.
- ❖ Mrs. Vijaya Rahatkar has previously served as the chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women from 2016 to 2021.
- ❖ The central government has also appointed Dr Archana Majumdar as a member of the National Commission for Women.
- ❖ Currently, Ms Delina Khongdup and Mrs Mamta Kumari are the other members of the Commission.

Terms of the Chairperson and the Member

- ❖ Mrs Vijaya Rahatkar and Dr Archana Majumdar have been appointed for a three-year term.
- ❖ As per the provisions of the National Commission for Women Act 1990, the Government of India has the power to frame rules and regulations regarding the tenure of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission.
- ❖ The government has framed the National Commission for Women (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 1992, which provides that the maximum age of the chairperson or the member of the National Commission for Women shall be

65 years and a term of three years, whichever is earlier.

- ❖ The central government can dismiss the chairperson or member under certain terms and conditions mentioned in the National Commission for Women Act 1990.
- ❖ The chairperson or the member can resign from their office by writing a letter addressed to the central government.
- ❖ The chairperson and the members of the Commission are eligible for reappointment.

About the National Commission for Women

- ❖ The National Commission for Women is a statutory body, setup by the government of India in January 1992 under the provision of the National Commission for Women Act 1990.
- ❖ The body is under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ❖ **Its head office is in New Delhi.**

Function of the National Commission for Women

- ❖ The Jurisdiction of the National Commission for Women extends to all parts of India. According to the National Commission for Women Act 1990, the functions of the body is
- ❖ review the provisions for the safeguards for women in the constitution and other statutory acts;
- ❖ Suggest measures to make new laws;
- ❖ Work for the redressal of grievances related to women and
- ❖ advise the Government on all policy matters relating to women.

Members of the National Commission for Women

- ❖ The National Commission for Women consists of a chairperson, five members and a member secretary.
- ❖ One member of the Commission shall be from Scheduled Caste and one member from Scheduled Tribes.

- ❖ There is one Member Secretary of the National Commission for Women who is an expert in the field of management, organisational structure or sociological movement or is an officer who is a member of a civil service of the central government or All India Services.

First G-7 Defence Ministers meeting hosted by Italy in Naples



Key Points:

- ❖ For the first time in Group of Seven (G7) history, the defence ministers of the G7 countries met in Naples, Italy, on 19 October 2024.
- ❖ Italian defence minister Guido Crosetto hosted the meeting. Italy holds the rotating presidency of the G-7 for 2024.
- ❖ The G7 Defence Ministers meeting was held in the background of the Israeli announcement that it has killed the Palestinian militant group Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar.
- ❖ The Israelis have accused Yayha Sinwar as the mastermind of the October 7, 2023, attacks on Israel, in which 1,200 people were killed and around 240 people were taken hostage by Hamas. Since then, Israel has attacked Gaza, the base of Hamas

Who attended the first G-7 Defence Minister meeting

- ❖ The G-7 Defence Ministers meeting was attended by the United States Secretary of Defence, Lloyd Austin, and the defence ministers of the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, and Japan.
- ❖ It was hosted by the Italian defence minister. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of the North Atlantic

Treaty Organisation (NATO), the European Union, and Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov.

- ❖ The G-7 is a group of advanced industrialised western countries: Italy, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, and the United States.

G7 Calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza

- ❖ In a joint declaration issued after the meeting, the G-7 defence ministers called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the release of Israeli hostages still held by Hamas
- ❖ It supported Ukraine’s membership in the western military alliance, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation). However, they did not mention the timetable for Ukraine’s membership of NATO as it is likely to provoke Russia, which has been at war with Ukraine for over two years.
- ❖ During the meeting, the European Union’s chief diplomat (Foreign Minister), Josep Borrell, said that the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, also known as UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon), needs to be made more effective by the United Nations Security Council.

Attack on UNIFIL Troops

- ❖ Since October 2023, the Iranian-backed militant Islamic group Hezbollah has been firing rockets at Israel and attacking with drones to express support to the Palestinian militant group Hamas. Hezbollah, which means ‘Party of God, is a political and military force in Lebanon, backed by Iran.
- ❖ It is considered to be a state within a state in war-torn Lebanon.
- ❖ Hezbollah is a violent anti-Israeli and anti-western countries group and has been engaged in hostility with Israel since its creation in the 1980s.
- ❖ To stop the continuous rocket and drone attacks of Hezbollah on Israel, the Israeli forces have attacked Hezbollah bases in Southern Lebanon and killed its leader, Hassan Nasrallah.

- ❖ Israel Defence Force (IDF) has also launched a ground offensive in South Lebanon to destroy the Hezbollah bases being used to attack Israel. It was during one of these attacks by Israel in Lebanon that five UNIFIL peacekeepers were injured. ▪
- ❖ The UNIFIL was established by the United Nations Security Council in 1978 to monitor the withdrawal of Israeli troops from South Lebanon and to restore peace and security in Lebanon.
- ❖ UNIFIL's force consists of 10,058 United Nations peacekeepers from 50 contributing countries deployed along the 120km Blue Line.
- ❖ The Blue Line demarcates the border between Israel and Lebanon. Around 903 Indian troops, mainly from the Assam Regiment, are part of the UNIFIL peacekeeping force.

Assam Government launches SWIFT project with ADB support



Key Points:

- ❖ The Himanta Biswa Sarma government in Assam has launched the Sustainable Wetland and Integrated Fisheries Transformation (SWIFT) project to revitalise 129 Beels and boost Indigenous fish production.
- ❖ The state government's SWIFT project is funded and supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

What is a Beel?

- ❖ Beel are floodplain wetlands and cover around one lakh hectares of land in Assam.

- ❖ Floodplain wetlands are low-lying areas bordering large rivers that are inundated during the monsoon season due to overflow from the main river channel. They are part of the Ganga and Brahmaputra river systems in the country.
- ❖ Assam has the maximum number of water areas under floodplain wetlands in the country. The floodplain wetlands are mainly associated with the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers in the state.
- ❖ These floodplain wetlands are locally known as beels (Assam, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Tripura), maun, chours and dhars (Bihar), pats (Manipur), charhas and boars (northern and south-eastern West Bengal respectively)
- ❖ These water bodies are important fishery resources and a source of livelihood in these states.

About the SWIFT Project of Assam

- ❖ The total outlay for the project is Rs Rs 798.88 crore.
- ❖ It aims to revitalise 129 Beels of the state.
- ❖ The project aims to restore nearly 4,000 hectares of beel areas.
- ❖ It will help with flood control, groundwater replenishment, and river flow regulation in the state. ▪ The SWIFT project is expected to increase fish production by 1,200 kg per hectare annually in the state.
- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a multilateral Development Bank focused on the Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ It was established in 1966 and has 69 member countries.
- ❖ It is based in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.
- ❖ President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa

MoS Pabitra Margherita attends Prabowo Subianto Swearing in Ceremony



Key Points:

- ❖ The Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, represented the government of India at the swearing-in ceremony of the Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 20 October 2024.
- ❖ The Indonesian Vice President Gibran Rakabuming was also sworn in along with President Subianto. Pabitra Margherita was on a two-day visit to Indonesia on 19-20 October 2024.
- ❖ India and Indonesia are celebrating 75 years of establishment of diplomatic relationships in 2024.

Indonesia's new President Prabowo Subianto announces largest-ever Cabinet with 109 members



Key Points:

- ❖ President Prabowo Subianto, the 8th President of Indonesia, replaced Joko Widodo. The term of the President of Indonesia is five years, and a person can be president for two terms only.
- ❖ President Prabowo Subianto was elected President of Indonesia in the presidential election held on 14 February 2024.
- ❖ He was the defence minister in the previous Joko Widodo administration. Gibran Rakabuming Raka, who was sworn in as the Vice President of Indonesia, is the son of Joko Widodo. The term of the vice president of Indonesia is five years.

First ASEAN-India Track 1 Cyber Policy Dialogue

- ❖ First India -ASEAN (Association of Southeast Nations)Track 1 Cyber Policy Dialogue was held in Singapore on 16 October 2024.
- ❖ The Cyber Policy Dialogue was held as per Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.
- ❖ Prime Minister Modi visited Vientiane on 10-11 October 2024 to attend the 21st India - ASEAN Summit meeting.
- ❖ During his speech at the summit meeting, Prime Minister Modi announced a 10-point agenda to strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between ASEAN and India
- ❖ Conducting regular India-ASEAN Cyber dialogue so as to strengthen Digital and Cyber Resilience between the two was part of the 10 points enunciated by Prime Minister Modi.
- ❖ Amit Shukla, Joint Secretary, Cyber Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs, cochaired the meeting with Jeffrey Ian Dy of the Philippines. The Philippines is currently the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-India dialogue relations.
- ❖ India and Singapore also conducted their first Cyber Policy Dialogue in Singapore on 17 October 2024.

New Zealand wins Maiden ICC Women's T20 World Cup



Key Points:

- ❖ The New Zealand women's cricket team won their first ICC Women's T20 World Cup by defeating South Africa in the final, played at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 20 October 2024.

- ❖ This was the first major title for the New Zealand Women's team, nicknamed 'White Ferns' since their triumph in the ICC Women's One Day International Cricket World Cup on home soil in 2000.
- ❖ The 9th ICC Women's T20 Cricket World Cup was originally allotted to Bangladesh, but due to political instability in the country, it was shifted to the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ Bangladesh shared the hosting rights with the UAE, and the matches were played in Dubai and Sharjah in the UAE from October 3-20, 2024.
- ❖ Ten teams: India, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, South Africa, England, West Indies and Scotland participated in the world cup.

Historic win for White Ferns and heartbreak for Proteas

- ❖ New Zealand was playing its third final in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup. It lost to England in the inaugural edition held in 2009 and again to Australia in 2000.
- ❖ The South African women's cricket team, nicknamed 'Proteas,' was playing its second consecutive final, having lost to Australia in the 8th edition held in South Africa in 2023.
- ❖ The Proteas captain, Laura Wolvaardt, won the toss and asked New Zealand to bat first.
- ❖ The White Ferns scored 158 runs in their allotted 20 overs for the loss of 5 wickets. Veteran all-rounder Amelia Kerr top-scored for New Zealand with 43 runs.
- ❖ In reply, the Proteas could manage only 126 runs for the loss of 9 wickets. Thus, the White Ferns, led by Sophie Devine, won the final match with 32 runs and emerged as champions.
- ❖ All-rounder Amelia Kerr of New Zealand was declared the Player of the Final as well as the Player of the Tournament for her all-around performance of 135 runs and 15 wickets.

- ❖ Earlier, New Zealand defeated the West Indies in the semi-final, and South Africa defeated the defending champion, Australia, in the other semi-final.
- ❖ Harmanpreet Kaur led Indian women's team failed to qualify for the semi-final.

ICC Women T 20 World Cup

- ❖ The International Cricket Conference (ICC), the world cricket governing body, organises the Women's T-20 World Cup.
- ❖ An ICC member country hosts the World Cup.
- ❖ The first Women T 20 World Cup, held in England in 2009, featured eight teams.
- ❖ England won the inaugural World Cup.
- ❖ Since the 2nd edition, the World Cup has been held every two years,
- ❖ Since the 4th edition in 2014, 10 teams participate in the World Cup.
- ❖ Australia is the most successful team, with six title wins.

18-year-old Nikita Porwal crowned Femina Miss India 2024



Key Points:

- ❖ Nikita Porwal from Madhya Pradesh was crowned Femina Miss India 2024 in Mumbai. The dazzling event held at Famous Studios, marked the 60th edition of the beauty pageant.
- ❖ She was followed at the second position by Rekha Panday who represented Union Territories and the second runner-up was Gujarat's Ayushi Dholakia.
- ❖ The 18-year-old actor started her career as a TV anchor, and she was crowned by last year's winner Nandini Gupta. Neha Dhupia put the Miss India sash on her.

- ❖ Despite being part of a movie, there are many people who still don't know much about Nikita Porwal.
- ❖ Nikita succeeds the earlier titleholder, Nandini Gupta from Rajasthan, who held the title since 2023

Manipur: Mera Hou Chongba festival observed to foster unity between hill & valley indigenous communities



Key Points:

- ❖ The festival to strengthen the cordial bond between the indigenous communities living in the hills and the valley people of Manipur, the Mera Hou Chongba Festival 2024, was observed in Imphal.
- ❖ The main event was held at the holy site, Kangla, in Imphal, where leaders of Indigenous communities from various hill districts joined the valley people in observing the festival, which symbolizes harmony and cultural exchange.
- ❖ The Mera Hou Chongba is the only festival where both hill and valley indigenous communities are observed together in the state.

Government and Meta join forces for “Scam se Bacho” Campaign to tackle rising online scams



Key Points:

- ❖ Government and Meta have joined forces for the “Scam se Bacho” campaign to tackle the rising threat of online scams. During the launch of the campaign in New Delhi, Information and Broadcasting Secretary Sanjay Jaju delivered the keynote address,

describing the initiative as a timely and essential step toward safeguarding citizens from the increasing danger of online fraud.

- ❖ This initiative by Meta is launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre. It aims to combat the growing menace of scams and cyber fraud.

Railways to cut advance booking period from 120 days to 60



Key Points:

- ❖ The Railway Board has reduced the time limit for advance booking of trains from 120 days to 60 days with the new time limit set to take effect from November 1.
- ❖ The Railways clarified that bookings made under the current 120-day ARP before October 31 will remain valid.
- ❖ It also stated that any cancellations for bookings made beyond the new 60-day ARP will still be allowed
- ❖ The revised changes do not apply to certain daytime express trains, such as the Taj Express and Gomti Express, which have different advance reservation limits.
- ❖ Additionally, the 365-day advance booking option for foreign tourists will remain unchanged.
- ❖ The advanced train ticket booking system is a feature that allows passengers to plan their journeys conveniently.
- ❖ Previously, the Railways allowed this facility up to 120 days, or four months, in advance of the journey date.

Sourav Ganguly named as Director of Cricket at JSW Sports

Key Points:

- ❖ Former Indian captain and BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) chief Saurav Ganguly has been named as director of cricket of Jindal South West (JSW) Sports.
- ❖ In this role, Ganguly will oversee all cricketing operations for the organization, including its key franchises like Delhi Capitals' men's and women's IPL and WPL teams, and Pretoria Capitals, which competes in the SA20 League.
- ❖ For the next two years, the GMR Group will oversee the Delhi Capitals' operations in the IPL, while JSW Sports will manage the team's participation in the WPL. In 2027, the roles will reverse, with JSW Sports taking over the management of the men's team

20 October – National Solidarity Day



Key Points:

- ❖ India commemorates National Solidarity Day every year on October 20 to honour the soldiers who fought during the Sino-Indian War of 1962.
- ❖ This significant day marks the national integrity displayed by India in its conflict with China. The Sino-Indian War, also known as the China– India War, occurred from October to November 1962.
- ❖ The conflict emerged from a series of border skirmishes and territorial disputes. On October 20, 1962, China launched a devastating attack, resulting in India's defeat and territorial losses, notably Aksai Chin.

Neetu David, AB de Villiers, Alastair Cook inducted into ICC Hall of Fame



Key Points:

- ❖ Former spinner Neetu David became only the second Indian woman to be inducted into the ICC's Hall of Fame.
- ❖ For the 47-year-old, it was an emotional moment when ICC named her alongside men's greats A B de Villiers and Alastair Cook as the latest entrants to the select club.
- ❖ David is currently the chief selector of the Indian women's cricket team.
- ❖ Former India spinner Neetu David, who still holds the record for the best figures (8/53) by a woman in an individual Test innings against England in 1995.

Surgeon Vice Admiral Kavita Sahai appointed as DG of Medical Services (Navy)



Key Points:

- ❖ Surgeon Vice Admiral Kavita Sahai, SM, VSM, assumed charge as Director General Medical Services (Navy). Commissioned into the Army Medical Corps on December 30, 1986,
- ❖ Vice Admiral Sahai has had an illustrious career in military medicine, underscored by exceptional achievements and leadership roles.

Abhyuday Jindal assumes charge as President of Indian Chamber of Commerce



Key Points:

- ❖ Abhyuday Jindal, the Managing Director of Jindal Stainless, has been appointed as president of industry body Indian Chamber of Commerce.
- ❖ Jindal succeeds Ameya Prabhu, the Managing Director of NAFA Capital, whose tenure as ICC President ended October 18. ICC, which was founded in 1925, plays a key role in working with the government to solve challenges faced by different industries

Karnataka Launches AI Tool Shiksha Copilot for Teacher



Key Points:

- ❖ Karnataka’s School Education and Literacy Minister, Madhu Bangarappa, launched “Shiksha Copilot,” a digital tool powered by artificial intelligence (AI).
- ❖ The main goal of Shiksha Copilot is to make teaching easier by helping teachers with lesson planning and providing resources like activities and videos.
- ❖ This tool aims to improve the education system in government schools, helping both teachers and students perform better academically.
- ❖ It was developed in partnership with the Sikshana Foundation and Microsoft Research India.

- ❖ This allows teachers to focus more on the individual needs of their students, making their teaching more personalized and effective.
- ❖ By improving classroom management, the tool aims to enhance students’ board exam results in Karnataka.
- ❖ The tool can handle different types of media, including text, images, and videos, making learning more interactive. Shiksha Copilot is designed to quickly create lesson plans that include engaging activities, videos, and quizzes that match the school curriculum.
- ❖ It uses Microsoft’s Azure OpenAI Service, which means it can process textbook content and other materials to create rich learning resources.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated International Workshop on Modern Technologies in Survey-Resurvey for Urban Land Records



Key Points:

- ❖ Union Rural Development Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan has inaugurated the International Workshop on Modern Technologies in Survey-Resurvey for Urban Land Records in New Delhi.
- ❖ The workshop also addressed challenges such as lack of standardization, data security, and capacity building for stakeholders.
- ❖ The primary objective of the workshop is to showcase global best practices in urban land record modernization, present applicable technological solutions, and facilitate pilot project planning for selected urban areas.

