

**31<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

## Replicas Of Konark Wheels At Rashtrapati Bhavan

Four replicas of the Konark wheels, made of sandstone, have been installed at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre and Amrit Udyan in New Delhi.



### Key Point

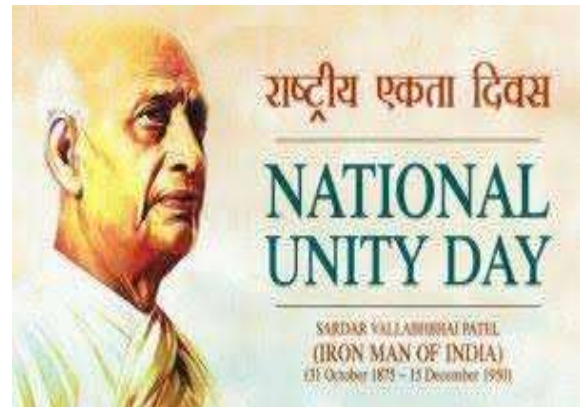
- ❖ The installation aims to showcase and promote the country's rich heritage among visitors.
- ❖ This initiative is one of several steps being taken to introduce traditional cultural and historical elements to Rashtrapati Bhavan.

### About Sun Temple (Konark)

- ❖ It was built by King Narasimhadeva I of East Ganga dynasty around 1240 AD, with a colossal shikhara that later collapsed.
- ❖ The temple, resembling a chariot, has walls covered in detailed ornamental carvings, including twelve pairs of enormous wheels representing the Sun god's chariot wheels.

## Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

Shri Amit Shah flags off the 'Run for Unity', organized as part of National Unity Day, in New Delhi.



### Key Point

- ❖ The 'Run for Unity' was organized as part of the National Unity Day, to be celebrated on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ❖ October 31 is celebrated as National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas every year in India to commemorate Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary.
- ❖ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was an Indian barrister and statesman, one of the leaders of the Indian National Congress during the struggle for Indian independence.
- ❖ From 1917 to 1924, he served as the first Indian municipal commissioner of Ahmedabad and was its elected municipal president from 1924 to 1928.

- ❖ In 1928, he successfully led the landowners of Bardoli in their resistance against increased taxes.
- ❖ His efficient leadership of the **Bardoli campaign** earned him the title sardar ("leader"), and henceforth he was acknowledged as a nationalist leader throughout India.
- ❖ He served as deputy prime minister, minister of home affairs, minister of information, and minister of states.
- ❖ During the 1930 **Salt Satyagraha** (prayer and fasting movement), he served three months' imprisonment.
- ❖ In March 1931 Patel presided over the **Karachi session** of the Indian National Congress.
- ❖ Under his chairmanship, the "Fundamental Rights and Economic Policy" resolution was passed by Congress in 1931.
- ❖ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is remembered as the "Patron saint of India's civil servants" for having established the modern all-India services system.

#### Global Nature Conservation Index

India ranked 176th out of 180 countries on the 2024 Global Nature Conservation Index (NCI), scoring 45.5/100, alongside low-ranked countries like Kiribati, Turkey, Iraq, and Micronesia.

❖



#### Key Point

- ❖ India's **Environmental Performance Index (EPI)** score has deteriorated over the last decade, underscoring the need for enhanced environmental policies and conservation practices.
- ❖ The index attributed India's low ranking mainly to rising threats to biodiversity and the inefficient management of land.
- ❖ The **Great Nicobar Island Development Project** has drawn criticism for its potential adverse impacts on local ecosystems, which include 96 wildlife sanctuaries, 9 national parks, and 1 biosphere reserve.

#### ❖ About Global Nature Conservation Index (NCI)

- ❖ Launched in October 2024, NCI assesses environmental protection across 180 countries based on four pillars:
  - Land Management
  - Threats to Biodiversity
  - Capacity and Governance
  - Future Trends

- ❖ It evaluates these pillars using 25 performance indicators.
- ❖ **Developed by:** The index was developed by the Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change at Ben-Gurion University, in collaboration with BioDB.com, a non-profit for biodiversity data.

### Similipal Tiger Reserve

Odisha is set to get its first tiger from Maharashtra under a big cat relocation project intended at improving the genetic diversity of the Tigers in the Similipal landscape.



#### Key Point

- ❖ A female tiger from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra is being transported to Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha.
- ❖ This is the first relocation program between Maharashtra and Odisha.

- ❖ Similipal was included in Project Tiger in 1973 and declared a Biosphere Reserve in 1994.
- ❖ It is recognized as part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves since 2009.
- ❖ It forms part of the Similipal-Kuldiha-Hadgarh Elephant Reserve (Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve), which encompasses three protected areas: Similipal Tiger Reserve, Hadagarh Wildlife Sanctuary, and Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary. Similipal Tiger Reserve is situated in northern Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, at the eastern edge of the Eastern Ghats.
- ❖ Home to the Erenga Kharias and Mankirdias tribes, who engage in traditional agriculture and collect seeds and timber.
- ❖ The Similipal Tiger Reserve is the only place in the world where melanistic (black) tigers are found.

### Ironman Race

Tejasvi Surya becomes first MP to complete Ironman race.





### Key Points

- ❖ The fourth edition of IRONMAN 70.3 Goa was flagged off by Race Ambassador and tennis legend Leander Paes.
- ❖ Karnataka's Lok Sabha MP Tejasvi Surya achieved a significant feat as he became the first member parliament complete Ironman triathlon. of to an
- ❖ Ironman race: The Ironman 70.3 triathlon involves a challenging sequence of a 1.9 km swim, a 90 km bike ride, and a 21.1 km run, totaling 113 km.
- ❖ Men winner: The men's title was claimed by former Ironman champion, Bishworjit Saikhom of the Indian Army.
- ❖ Women winner. In the women's category. Egypt's Yasmin Halawa took the top spot

#### Maitri Dwar

Home Minister Amit Shah Inaugurates New Passenger Terminal & a Cargo Gate at Petrapole Land Port on India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal



### Key Points

- ❖ On 27th October 2024, the Union Home Minister inaugurated the newly constructed passenger terminal building and a cargo gate named 'Maitri Dwar' at the Land Port in Petrapole, on the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal
- ❖ The Petrapole Land Port, situated in Uttar 24 Parganas district, is the largest land port in South Asia and serves as vital gateway for trade and commerce between the two countries.
- ❖ The passenger terminal aims to facilitate international trade and crossings for citizens of both India and Bangladesh.
- ❖ It will significantly enhance regional infrastructure, with a handling capacity of 20,000 passengers per day and housing immigration, customs, and security services under one roof.
- ❖ The 'Maitri Dwar' cargo gate is a joint facility agreed upon by both countries.

#### Short News

- ❖ Indian Railways today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport and Communications of the Swiss Confederation to enhance technical cooperation between the two nations.

- ❖ The Nepal government will provide cancer treatment to children under 14 free of cost in the designated public hospitals.
- ❖ The South Pacific island nation of Fiji has conferred its highest civilian honour upon Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the global spiritual master and humanitarian leader, for his tireless contribution to the upliftment of the human spirit and connecting diverse communities in peace and harmony.
- ❖ The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended the name of **Ashok Chandra** for the post of MD & CEO at Punjab National Bank (PNB), the country's second largest public sector bank.
- ❖ **Justice K S Puttaswamy**, former Karnataka High Court judge and the lead petitioner in the seminal 'right to privacy case', passed away at the age of 98.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of Dhanvantari Jayanti, launched the country's **first helicopter ambulance** service through All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh.
- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Civil Registration System (CRS) mobile application, which aims to facilitate seamless and hassle-free registration of births and deaths.
- ❖ India and Germany convened the **7th Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC)** in New Delhi, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, addressing pressing global issues.

*Important Daily Current Affairs Question*

1. Every year Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is celebrated on which of the following dates?

- (a) 31 October
- (b) 1 November
- (c) 30 October
- (d) 2 November

Answer – (a)

2. What is the rank of India in the Global Nature Conservation Index?

- (a) 180
- (b) 176
- (c) 159
- (d) 155

Answer – (b)

