

Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card

The Prime Minister launched health insurance coverage for all senior citizens of 70 years and above through Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

Key Points-

- ❖ Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card has been launched as a part of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- ❖ All people aged **70 years and above**, regardless of their financial status or income, are eligible for free health coverage of up to **Rs 5 lakh annually under this expanded scheme**.
- ❖ This expansion is part of the **Rs 12,850 crore healthcare projects** launched recently by the Prime Minister.
- ❖ **Beneficiaries** : It is expected to benefit 60 million senior citizens.
- ❖ **Objective** : The programme aims to provide quality healthcare to senior citizens, as many of them have to undergo expensive medical treatment.

What is Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card?

- ❖ The Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card is universal and has no income limit, be it poor, middle class or upper class.
- ❖ Under the expanded scope of the scheme, eligible senior citizens, who belong to families already covered under AB-PMJAY, will get an **additional top-up cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per year for themselves**, over and above the Rs 5 lakh already being given to the family.

National Unity Day

National Unity Day is celebrated every year on **31 October** in India.

Key Points -

- ❖ The **10th National Unity Day** was observed in the year 2024.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, who was an important figure in India's freedom struggle.
- ❖ National Unity Day commemorates his efforts to integrate various princely states into one nation and promotes the spirit of unity among the people of India.
- ❖ Renowned for his unflinching commitment to national integration, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is remembered as the **"Iron Man of India"**.
- ❖ On the 10th National Unity Day, the Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of **various infrastructure and development projects worth over Rs 280 crore at Ekta Nagar (Kevadia) located in Narmada district of Gujarat**. These projects aim to enhance tourist experience, improve accessibility and support sustainability initiatives.



About Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel -

- ❖ **Born** - 31 October 1875 in Nadiad, Gujarat.
- ❖ He was a successful lawyer by profession, Mahatma Gandhi chose him as his deputy commander to lead the **Kheda Satyagraha in 1918**.
- ❖ In the year 1924, he was elected the President of the **Ahmedabad Municipal Board** where he revamped the drainage, sanitation, hygiene and water distribution systems of Ahmedabad.
- ❖ His role in the **Bardoli Satyagraha of 1928** took him to new heights of national pride and it was here that he received the title of '**Sardar**'.
- ❖ At the time of independence, India consisted of **17 British Indian provinces and over 560 princely states**. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a key role in ensuring the merger of the princely states and integrating them into the Union of India.
- ❖ On 15 August 1947, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was sworn in as the **first Deputy Prime Minister as well as the first Home Minister** of independent India. He also took charge of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Statue of Unity

- ❖ On **October 31, 2018**, the **world's tallest statue** - the Statue of Unity was inaugurated in Kevadia district of Gujarat.
- ❖ The statue is **182 metres** (about 600 feet) tall, dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of independent India.
- ❖ The statue stands above the Narmada River.

Special Campaign 4.0

Special Campaign 4.0 is in full swing in the Department of Personnel and Training to clear pending cases and achieve efficiency in decision making.

Key Points -

- ❖ Inspired by the Prime Minister's national vision of institutionalizing Swachhata and enhancing workplace efficiency, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) along with its attached and subordinate organizations participated in the main phase of Special Campaign 4.0.
- ❖ The campaign, which will run from **2nd October to 31st October, 2024**, aims to bring about effective, focused and significant improvement in Swachhata and reduction in pendency of cases in the office.
- ❖ During the campaign, the focus was on **overall improvement in the work environment and improving the office experience for the employees**.
- ❖ **Records Management** : Since the launch of the campaign, more than 31,000 files and more than 4,800 e-files have been reviewed.
 - About 10,000 files have been identified and 3,500 files have been removed and 90 files have been sent to the National Archives of India. More than 1,500 e-files have been closed so far.

Person In News- Sports

Matthew Wade

Australian wicketkeeper-batsman Matthew Wade has announced his **retirement from international cricket**. He will now play the role of assistant coach with the national team.

He played a major role in helping Australia win its first **T20 World Cup** in 2021.

Wade has played 36 Test matches, 97 ODIs and 92 T20Is for Australia, he has also captained the ODI and T20 teams.



Person In News - Achievement

Rachel Gupta

20-year-old Rachel Gupta from Jalandhar, Punjab has been crowned Miss Grand International (MGI) 2024.

Miss Grand International 2024 was the 12th Miss Grand International pageant, held on 25 October 2024 at the MGI Hall in **Bangkok, Thailand**.

Rachel is the first Indian to win the Golden Crown in the history of MGI.

Rachel also won the title of Miss Super Talent of the World 2022.



Sports

- ❖ Spanish footballer **Rodrigo Hernandez Cascante** has won the **Ballon d'Or 2024 award**. He beat Real Madrid stars Vinicius Junior and Jude Bellingham to win the award.

- ❖ Barcelona midfielder **Aitana Bonmati** has won the **Women's Ballon d'Or** for the second consecutive year
- ❖ **Carlo Ancelotti** was named Men's Coach of the Year and Real Madrid was named Men's Club of the Year.

Note : The Ballon d'Or is football's most prestigious award, an individual honour given to a player.

Important News- Other States

Karnataka

- ❖ The Karnataka government has launched two flagship programmes – **Elevate 2024** and **Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN)** – to help early and growth-stage start-ups boost their growth by addressing funding issues.
- ❖ Elevate 2024 is a **grant-assisted seed funding scheme** designed to empower early-stage start-ups in the state, while KAN is an **acceleration network** that provides mentorship, market access, and funding opportunities for growth-stage start-ups across Karnataka.

Haryana

- ❖ The Haryana government has implemented a **state specific scheme** to curb incidents of stubble burning.
- ❖ Under this scheme, **farmers are given financial assistance for crop residue management**, and a zero burning target is also set for panchayats.
- ❖ **Red zone panchayats will get an incentive of Rs 1 lakh** for achieving zero burning target, while **yellow zone panchayats will get Rs 50 thousand**.

Ladakh

- ❖ The annual **Shrub-La Festival** was held at **Bodhkharbu** in Ladakh, a celebration honouring the dedicated farmers of Kargil and their bountiful harvests.
- ❖ The event promotes cultural expression and unity, and preserves the rich traditions of Ladakh.

Important News- Worldwide

Zimbabwe

- ❖ The **Climate and Health Africa Conference (CHAC 2024)** was held in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.
- ❖ It is a conference that brings **Africa into the global dialogue on the intersection of climate change and health.**

- ❖ The three-day conference, running from **October 29-31**, aims to address the urgent need to tackle the harmful health impacts of climate change on health and well-being in Africa.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ Indian Railways signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Environment, Transport and Communications of Switzerland to promote technical cooperation between the two countries. This will provide **Indian Railways with a broad framework for cooperation in various areas including technology sharing, track maintenance, management and construction.**

