

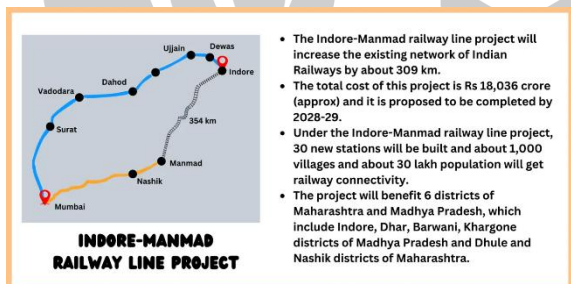
21th September 2024

Indore-Manmad Railway Project

Recently, President Murmu laid the foundation of Indore-Ujjain highway project.

Key Points

- ❖ The project covers 309 kilometers (170.056 km in Madhya Pradesh and 139.376 km in Maharashtra) with a total cost of Rs. 18,036.25 crore.
- ❖ It will connect Indore in Madhya Pradesh with Manmad in Maharashtra, connecting key districts (Barwani, Khargone, Dhar, and Indore) and improving regional connectivity.



- ❖ Under the Indore-Manmad railway line project, 30 new stations will be built and about 1,000 villages and about 30 lakh population will get railway connectivity.
- ❖ It will improve transportation for onion production hubs (Nashik, Dhule, and Nandurbar) and other agricultural products.

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh will provide Rs.1,362.80 crore (10% of the state's contribution), however Maharashtra would not participate financially. The remaining funding will be provided by the central government.
- ❖ Central Government has supported the project under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan

- ❖ The Gati Shakti scheme will subsume the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline that was launched in 2019.
- ❖ It will help in fulfilling the ambitious targets set by the government for 2024-25, including expanding the length of the national highway network to 2 lakh kms, creation of more than 200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes. It will help in fulfilling the ambitious targets set by the government for 2024-25, including expanding the length of the national highway network to 2 lakh kms, creation of more than 200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes.

India to be third largest economy by 2030-31

According to S&P Global's report titled 'India Forward: Emerging Perspectives', India is expected to become the third-largest economy by the fiscal year 2030-31, fueled by a strong projected annual growth rate of 6.7%.



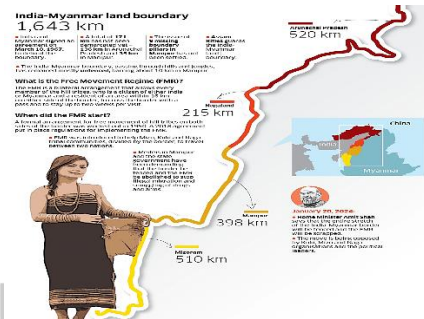
Key Points

- ❖ In the fiscal year to March 2024, growth surprised on the upside at 8.2%, exceeding the government's earlier estimate of 7.3%.
- ❖ The Union Budget 2024-25, presented July 23, maintained India's infrastructure buildout momentum, with capex budgeted to grow 17.1% in the current fiscal year.
- ❖ According to S&P Global Market Intelligence projections, the size of the country's nominal GDP would nearly double to over US\$7 trillion by fiscal 2030-31 from US\$3.6 trillion in fiscal 2023-24.
- ❖ This would make India the third-largest economy in the world, raising its share in global GDP from 3.6% to 4.5% and lifting its per-capita income to the upper-middle-income group.

- ❖ India's share in world real GDP will rise from 3.6% in 2023 to 4.5% in 2030.

Government sanctions ₹31,000 crore to fence Myanmar border

- ❖ The Union government has sanctioned ₹31,000 crore for fencing the 1,643-km Myanmar border, aiming to address ethnic violence in Manipur.



Key Points

- ❖ The border runs along Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km), and Mizoram (510 km), with 30 km of the fencing completed.
- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Security approved the construction of border fencing and roads, and about 10 km of fencing has been completed near Moreh in Manipur.

India's border management

- ❖ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed over 8,500 kms of roads and more than 400 permanent bridges.

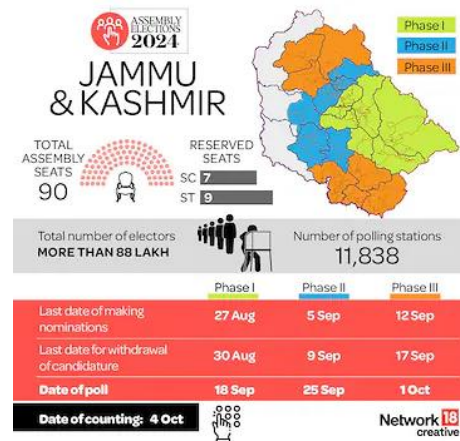
- Atal Tunnel, Sela Tunnel and Shikun-La Tunnel, which is going to be the world's highest tunnel, will prove to be milestones in border area development.
- Trans-Arunachal Highway is a strategic project to enable quick and effective response against potential aggression by China.

❖ **Border Area Development Programme (BAPD):** Launched in 1986-87 for the balanced development of border areas in states bordering Pakistan—Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Gujarat, and Rajasthan—later extended to all land borders.

- ❖ The Central government has already scrapped the the India-Myanmar Free Movement Regime (FMR), which allows people residing close to the border to venture 16 km into each other's territory without any documents. It was implemented in 2018 as part of India's Act East policy.

Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls

Jammu & Kashmir recorded a historic voter turnout of 60.65% in its first assembly elections in a decade, with 24 of the 90 constituencies voting.



Key Points

- ❖ The elections, which include 16 constituencies in Kashmir and 8 in Jammu, show improved conditions and increased civic engagement
- ❖ This turnout follows a summer Lok Sabha election turnout of 58.46%, the highest in 35 years.
- ❖ The highest turnout was reported from Padder Nagseni in Kishtwar (80.67%), while the lowest was in Tral, Pulwama (43.21%).
- ❖ This is the first Assembly election being held in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation in Article 370 and its bifurcation. The last time Assembly elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir was in 2014.
- ❖ J&K recorded its highest overall turnout of 75% in 1987.

Election Phases:

- ❖ The election will be conducted in three phases: September 18, September 25, and October 12.

- ❖ The second phase will cover 26 constituencies, including districts like Srinagar, Poonch, and Rajouri.
- ❖ The final phase will involve 40 constituencies, including Bandipora, Baramulla, and Jammu.

India's young weightlifters win 11 gold medals at Commonwealth Championship

Indian weightlifters secured 11 gold and three silver medals at the 2024 Commonwealth Youth, Junior and Senior (Men & Women) Weightlifting Championships at Suva, Fiji.



Key Points

- ❖ Valluri Ajaya Babu secured gold and set a new Commonwealth record in clean and jerk in the 81 kg junior men's category and also a national record in the snatch (147 kg), clean and jerk (179 kg) and total weight (326 kg).
- ❖ Sairaj Pardeshi won gold in the men's 81kg junior category and silver in the youth category.

- ❖ Hrudananda Das and Lalruatfela secured bronze and silver respectively in the men's 89 kg junior category.

News Shorts

In the **National Inspire Award Competition**, Shri Deepak Verma, a class 10 student of Government Higher Secondary School, Udyotgarh, Bhind district of Madhya Pradesh, has secured the first position.

- ❖ **VisionNxt**, launched by the **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)**, is a fashion forecasting initiative aimed at fostering global competition and elevating Indian culture and design.
- ❖ Gujarat emerged as the top winner at the **4th Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo**, receiving the most awards, including for overall renewable energy capacity and wind power capacity.
- ❖ **Santosh Kashyap** has been appointed as the new head coach of the **Indian women's national football team**, succeeding Chaoba Devi.
- ❖ Scotland, backed by its government, is set to host the **2026 Commonwealth Games** in Glasgow with £100 million invested by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and £2.3 million from Commonwealth Games Australia.

- ❖ **HDFC Pension** has surpassed Rs. 1 lakh crore in Assets Under Management (AUM), marking a significant growth in the pension fund sector.
- ❖ **WAAYU** is India's first food delivery app to operate on a zero-commission model.
- ❖ **McLaren's Oscar Piastri**, an Australian racing driver won the Formula 1 (F1) Qatar Airways Azerbaijan Grand Prix (GP) 2024

- ❖ held at the Baku City Circuit (BCC) in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ❖ Hockey Punjab won the **14th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2024** by defeating Uttar Pradesh Hockey in the final.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Recently, the Indore-Manmad Railway Project has been approved, marking a historic milestone for railway development in which two Indian states?
 - (a) Gujarat and Maharashtra
 - (b) Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra
 - (c) Rajasthan and Gujarat
 - (d) Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

Answer – (b)

2. Which country is set to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games after Victoria, Australia, withdrew due to high costs?
 - (a) Canada
 - (b) Scotland
 - (c) New Zealand
 - (d) South Africa

Answer – (b)

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