

Economy

Cruise Bharat Mission

Why in the news?

The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, has launched the 'Cruise Bharat Mission' from the Mumbai port.

❖ Objective of the mission:

- It aims to excel India's vision to become a global hub for cruise tourism and promote the country as the leading global cruise destination.
- It covers three key segments - Ocean & Harbour cruise, River & Island cruise, Island cruise.

Three phases of implementation: It will be implemented in three phases:

❖ Phase 1 (01.10.2024 – 30.09.2025):

- It will focus on conducting studies, master planning, and forming cruise alliances with neighbouring countries.
- It will also modernise existing cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations to enhance the potential of cruise circuits.

❖ Phase 2 (01.10.2025–31.03.2027)

- It will concentrate on developing new cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations to activate high-potential cruise locations and circuits.

❖ Phase 3 (01.04.2027 – 31.03.2029)

- It will focus on integrating all cruise circuits across the Indian Subcontinent, marking the maturity of the cruise ecosystem while continuing the development of cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations.

Targets of the mission:

- ❖ Increasing sea cruise passengers from 0.5 million in Phase 1 to 1 million by Phase 3, with corresponding increases in sea cruise calls from 125 to 500.
- ❖ River cruise passengers will grow from 0.5 million in Phase 1 to 1.5 million by Phase 3.
- ❖ The number of international cruise terminals will expand from 2 in Phase 1 to 10 by Phase 3, while river cruise terminals will increase from 50 to 100.
- ❖ Marinas to grow from 1 to 5, and employment generated to rise from 0.1 million to 0.4 million by the final phase.



Defence And Security

KAZIND -2024

Why in the news?

The 8th edition of India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2024 has commenced, at Surya Foreign Training Node, Auli, Uttarakhand.

❖ History of this exercise:

- It has been held annually since 2016.
- The last edition of the Joint Exercise was held at Otar, Kazakhstan from 30th October to 11th November 2023.

❖ Objective: To enhance the joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter-terrorism operations in a sub-conventional scenario under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

❖ Participation of forces:

- It will be conducted from 30th September to 13th October 2024.
- The Indian Armed Forces, comprising 120 personnel, are being represented by a battalion of the KUMAON Regiment of the Indian Army, along with other arms and services, as well as personnel from the Indian Air Force.

- The Kazakhstan contingent will be represented mainly by personnel from Land Forces and Air Borne Assault Troopers.



Miscellaneous

BharatGen

Why in the news?

It is a pioneering initiative in generative AI designed to revolutionize public service delivery and boost citizen engagement through developing a suite of foundational models in language, speech, and computer vision

- ❖ It is the first Government-funded Multimodal Large Language Model initiative.
- ❖ It is spearheaded by IIT Bombay under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

❖ **Objective:**

- It will deliver generative AI models and their applications as a public good by prioritizing India's socio-cultural and linguistic diversity.
- It strives to address India's broader needs such as social equity, cultural preservation, and linguistic diversity, while ensuring that generative AI reaches all segments of society.

❖ **Four key distinguishing features of BharatGen:**

- It included the multilingual and multimodal nature of foundation models; Bhartiya data set-based building, and training; an open-source platform, and the development of an ecosystem of generative AI research in the country.

❖ **Significance:**

- It will position India as a global leader in the field of Generative AI, much like achievements with UPI (Unified Payment Interface).

Index and Report

Urban Governance Index 2024

Why in the news?

The Praja Foundation (NGO) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) have released the **Urban Governance Index 2024**.

According to the index:

- ❖ The top five states are **Kerala (Score 59.31)**, Odisha, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The bottom five performing states are **Nagaland**, Manipur, Meghalaya, Punjab and Chandigarh.
- ❖ **Bihar is ranked at 15th position in this index with a score of 41.12.**

About the index:

- ❖ It ranks cities and states based on their performance and highlighting the lacunas in civic governance.
- ❖ It is based on four aspects: empowered city elected representatives and legislative structure, empowered city administration, empowered citizens and fiscal empowerment.
 - These themes are further divided into 13 sub-themes, comprising 42 indicators.

Important Days/ Dates

International Coffee Day 2024

Why in the news?

International Coffee Day is celebrated annually on 1st October.

- ❖ **Objective:** It promotes the fair trade of the beverage and also aims to raise awareness about the struggles of coffee growers in the world.

- ❖ **History of this day:**
 - The International Coffee Organisation (ICO) decided to establish October 1, 2014, as International Coffee Day which will be celebrated worldwide.
 - The first International Coffee Day was celebrated in 2015 in Milan.
 - The International Coffee Organisation (ICO) was established in 1963.
 - **HQ of ICO:** London, United Kingdom.
- ❖ **Theme 2024:** "Coffee, Your Daily Ritual, Our Shared Journey".



World Vegetarian Day 2024

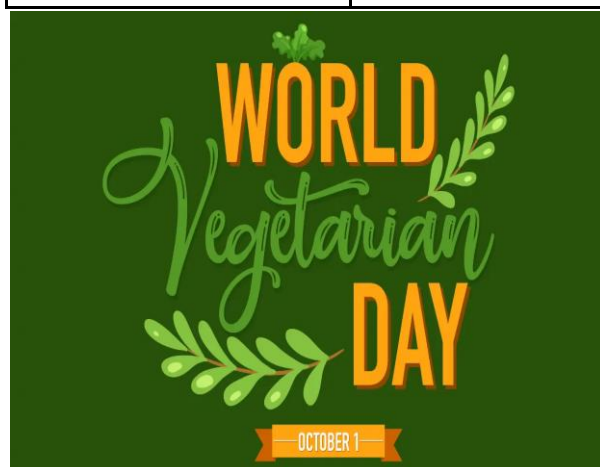
Why in the news?

World Vegetarian Day is celebrated annually on **October 1** across the globe.

- ❖ **History of this day:**
 - It was founded in **1977** by the North American Vegetarian Society (NAVS) and was endorsed by the International Vegetarian Union in 1978.
 - The idea of the celebration emerged from a 1976 NAVS convention in Oglethorpe, Georgia, where participants sought to create a unified day for vegetarians.

- October 1 was then chosen to align with the founding of the Vegetarian Society in England in 1847.
- ❖ **Theme 2024:** "Mix It Up!"
- ❖ **Significance:** It encourages people to embrace vegetarian lifestyles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote cruelty-free farming, and improve overall well-being.

Vegetarian	Vegan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Vegetarians don't eat any food products made from meat, fish, shellfish, crustacea (such as prawns or crab) or animal by-products (such as gelatine or rennet). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Vegans don't eat any food products that come from animals, including dairy products and eggs.



News in Short

- ❖ Mithun Chakraborty will be honored with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2022.
 - It is the government's highest recognition in the field of cinema.
 - He will be awarded for his remarkable contributions to Indian cinema at the 70th National Film Awards ceremony on 8th October 2024.



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