

17th September 2024

ZikaVaccine

To strengthen India's clinical research ecosystem, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has formalised MoUs with several sponsors under the first phase of its clinical trials network.

Key Points-

- ❖ This agreement is the **first step towards beginning clinical trials on humans** of promising molecules. It includes-
 - Collaborative research on a small molecule for multiple myeloma with **Aurigene Oncology Limited**.
 - Partnership for **Zika vaccine** development with Indian Immunologicals Ltd.
 - Coordination of **seasonal influenza virus vaccine** trials with Mynvax Pvt. Ltd. and **CAR-T cell therapy** advancement studies for a new indication of chronic lymphocytic leukemia with ImmunoAct.
- ❖ **Significance:** This initiative is an important step towards establishing India as a leader in the clinical development of pharmaceutical agents.
- ❖ **Phase:** Establishing Phase I clinical trial infrastructure is a critical component in promoting the development of indigenous molecules and cutting-edge treatments. The ICMR network for Phase I clinical trials comprises four strategically located institutions in India-
 - KEMH & GSMC, Mumbai;
 - ACTREC, Navi Mumbai;
 - SRM MCH&RC, Kattankulathur;
 - and PGIMER, Chandigarh
- ❖ **Objective:** This network is designed to build and enhance India's capacity to conduct early-stage clinical trials, ensuring smooth and effective operations, supported by robust infrastructure and dedicated manpower at each trial site.

Swachhata Hi Sewa Abhiyan

To celebrate the **tenth anniversary** of the launch of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the Department of Law will launch Swachhata Hi Sewa Abhiyan (SHS) 2024 from **17th September 2024 to 2nd October 2024**.



Key Points -

- ❖ **Theme of SHS 2024:** "Swabhaav Swachhata, Sanskar Swachhata"
- ❖ **Key Pillars:** Under this, the spirit of citizen participation and collective actions will be ignited in the cleanliness efforts across the country. Under this, focus will be on three important pillars of the overall society.
 - **Sanitation Target Unit (CTU)** – Shramdaan activities, focus on specific target units and timely changes for overall cleanliness.
 - **public participation in cleanliness** – Involvement of citizens in cleanliness efforts through public participation, awareness, various participatory activities.
 - **Safai Mitra Security Camp** – Providing preventive health check-up and social security coverage of sanitation workers.
- ❖ **Participation:** The Union Minister of State for Law and Justice has requested the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Chief Justices of various High Courts and other courts for active participation in this campaign.

- ❖ **Conclusion:** The SHS 2024 campaign will conclude with Shramdaan on 2nd October 2024 with an aim to honor the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and make cleanliness a part of life.

Indexes/ Report

Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI), 2024

- ❖ India has been ranked among the **Tier 1** countries in the Global Cyber Security Index (GCI). India has performed well in measures such as legal, technical, capacity expansion and corporations.
- ❖ The 'GCI 2024' used a new five-level analysis.
- ❖ The report ranks **46 countries** in the highest category, Tier 1. These countries have been named **"role modeling"** countries that have shown strong commitment to all important aspects of cyber security.

About GCI -

- ❖ The Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) is a reliable reference that measures countries' commitment to cybersecurity at a global level.
- ❖ The index is released by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**.
- ❖ Cybersecurity has a broad field of application, spanning multiple industries and various sectors, so each country's level of development or engagement is assessed across five pillars – **(i) legal measures, (ii) technical measures, (iii) organizational measures, (iv) capacity development, and (v) cooperation.**

Summit/Initiative

National Security Strategies Conference – 2024

- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 7th National Security Strategy Conference 2024 in **New Delhi**.

- ❖ During the two-day conference, the government will outline a roadmap to deal with emerging national security challenges with the top police leadership of **states, union territories, central armed police forces and central police organisations.**
- ❖ More than 750 officers are participating in this conference, which is being held in a **hybrid format** combining physical and virtual modes.
- ❖ During this, the Union Home Minister launched the **DGSP/IGSP Conference Recommendations Dashboard**, developed by NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau).

Person In News- Obituary

Ilya 'Golem' Yefimchik

Ilya 'Golem' Yefimchik, known as the 'world's strongest bodybuilder', died after suffering a heart attack at **the age of 36**. He was from Belarus.

Person In News- Appointment

Swati Vijay Kulkarni



Swati Vijay Kulkarni has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to **Algeria**.

She is a 1995 batch Indian Foreign Service Officer, and is currently Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Important News- Other States

Andaman Nicobar

The Government of India has changed the name of **Port Blair**, the capital of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The government has changed the name of Port Blair to '**Sri Vijayapuram**'.

Chhattisgarh

The Governor of Chhattisgarh will attend the closing ceremony of the ten-day **39th Historical Cultural Chakradhar Festival** being organised at Ramlila Maidan on **September 16**.

Important News- Worldwide

Congo

- ❖ The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will launch the first phase of its Ampox vaccination campaign on October 2.
- ❖ Congo has received **265,000 doses of the vaccine** from international partners.
- ❖ The World Health Organization has recently approved the **MVA-VN vaccine** for Ampox. This vaccine can be given to victims above 18 years of age.
- ❖ **Note:** 90 percent of the cases of Ampox in Africa are in Congo.

Species In News

Southern Birdwing



- ❖ India's second largest butterfly species (with a wingspan of 190 mm), the **Southern Birdwing**, has been found at the satellite campus of The American College between Chathirappatti and Kadavur on the New Natham Highway in Madurai district.
- ❖ This species was known as the largest butterfly species of India from 1932 to 2020.
- ❖ Later, it came in second place after a butterfly species called **Golden Birdwing** with a wingspan of 194 mm was recorded by British military officer and lepidopterist British Brigadier William Harry Evans.

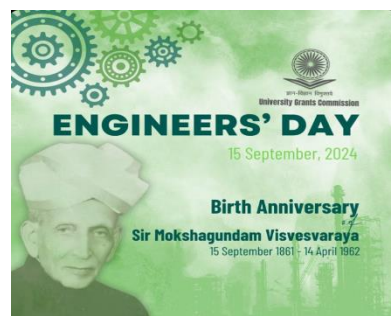
About Southern Birdwing-

- ❖ **Scientific name:** Troides minos
- ❖ The Southern Birdwing, also known as the '**Sahyadri Birdwing**', is a large and attractive butterfly species found in South Asia.
- ❖ It is found mainly in the **Western Ghats** in India.
- ❖ The wings of the males are usually black with greenish-blue markings, while the females have more elaborate patterns with cream-coloured markings.

Important Days/Dates

15 September

Engineer's day



- ❖ Every year in India, 15 September is celebrated as Engineers Day.
- ❖ Engineers Day was announced by the Government of India in the year **1968**.
- ❖ This day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Sir M. Vishwakarma. He was born on 15 September 1861 in Karnataka. He is also called the **Father of Engineering**.
- ❖ Sir M. Vishwakarma's full name was Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, he was given the title of Sir.
- ❖ He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1955.
- ❖ **This year's theme:** Innovating for a Sustainable World'

15 September

International Day of Democracy



- ❖ International Day of Democracy is celebrated every year on September 15.
- ❖ **This year's theme:** 'Ensuring effective governance of Artificial Intelligence at all levels.'
- ❖ Celebrated every year since 2007, 'International Day of Democracy' is a celebration of the enduring principles and values of democracy.

16 September

World Ozone Day



- ❖ World Ozone Day is celebrated every year on 16 September. Its purpose is to make people aware about the protection of the ozone layer.

- ❖ On **19 December 1994**, the United Nations General Assembly declared 16 September as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, which is celebrated in memory of the date when the **Montreal Protocol** on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed in 1987.
- ❖ **Subject:** "'Montreal Protocol - Advancing Climate Actions"

Sports

Diamond League 2024

Indian javelin throws star and Olympic silver medallist Neeraj Chopra missed the Diamond Trophy title by just one centimetre in the Diamond League 2024 final at the **King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels**. He finished **second** with a throw of 87.86m in the final.

More On News-

- ❖ Anderson Peters of Grenada secured the first position with a throw of 87.87 meters.
- ❖ Julian Weber of Germany was in third place with a throw of 85.97 meters.
- ❖ **Note:** Neeraj Chopra has won the Diamond League in the year 2022.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ Government-owned public television broadcaster Doordarshan completed **65 years on September 15**. Established on September 15, 1959, Doordarshan marked the beginning of India's broadcasting era. As an autonomous public service broadcaster under the Government of India, it is one of the two divisions of Prasar Bharati.

- ❖ Taking a significant step to highlight the rich cultural and economic heritage of Northeast India, the **Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)** launched the official website for the upcoming **Ashtalakshmi Festival**. The Ashtalakshmi Festival will be celebrated from December 6 to 8, 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

○○○○

UPPSC
WALLAH