

14<sup>th</sup> October 2024**Indian Institute of Skills (IIS)**

Recently the Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in Mumbai.

**Key Points-**

- ❖ **Objective:** It aims to **create an industry-ready workforce for Industry 4.0**, equipped with cutting-edge technology and hands-on training in multiple trades including factory automation, digital manufacturing, mechatronics, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and additive manufacturing.
- ❖ **Participation:** Established through the **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model**, the institute is a collaboration between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India and Tata IIS (a Section 8 Company under Tata Trusts).
- ❖ **Specialized courses:** The institute will initially launch six specialized courses: Advanced Industrial Automation and Robotics, Industrial Automation Fundamentals, Advanced ARC Welding Techniques, Additive Manufacturing, Electric Vehicle Battery Specialist and 2 & 3-Wheeler EV Technician.
- ❖ **Laboratories:** The institute will initially have advanced laboratories developed in **partnership with over 15 global and Indian original equipment manufacturers (OEMs)**, ensuring that students gain hands-on experience using real industry equipment at an affordable cost.
  - Once the training is completed, the students will be ready to work in new age industries like **EV manufacturers, AI and robotics**.

- ❖ The institute will also provide hostel facilities in the near future to enhance the learning experience of the candidates.

**44th and 45th ASEAN Summit**

The **44th and 45th Summits** of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other related meetings were held in **Vientiane, the capital of Laos**, from 9 to 11 October.

**Key Points-**

- ❖ The theme of this year's ASEAN Summit, chaired by Laos, is **"ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience"**.
- ❖ It aims to make the ASEAN community more cohesive and dynamic.
- ❖ Along with the ASEAN Summit, other events such as the **27th ASEAN-China Summit and the India-ASEAN and East Asia Summits** were also held.

**About ASEAN -**

- ❖ The Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN is a group of Southeast Asian countries that work together to promote economic growth and prosperity and to maintain peace and stability in the region.
- ❖ **Headquarters:** Jakarta, Indonesia.

- ❖ **Founded:** 8 August 1967, Bangkok, Thailand (Bangkok Declaration)
- ❖ **Member countries:** Brunei Darussalam, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

### Fortified Rice

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of universal supply of **fortified rice under all schemes of the Government including Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** and other welfare schemes etc. in its present form from July 2024 to December 2028.

#### More On News-

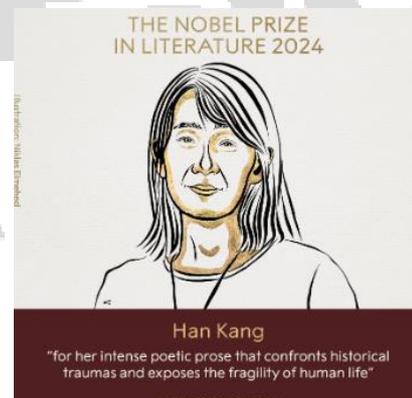
- ❖ **Funding:** The initiative of fortification of rice will continue as a Central Sector initiative with **100% funding by Government of India** as part of PMGKAY (food subsidy).
- ❖ **Background:** In April 2022, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had decided to implement the initiative of making fortified rice available across the country in a phased manner by March 2024.
  - So far, all three phases have been successfully completed and the target of universal coverage for supply of fortified rice under all Government schemes has been achieved by March 2024.
- ❖ **Anemia in India:** According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) conducted between 2019 and 2021, **anemia still remains a widespread health problem in India**, affecting children, women and men across different age groups and income levels.

- Apart from iron deficiency, other vitamin and mineral deficiencies such as vitamin B12 and folic acid affect the overall health and productivity of the country's population.

- ❖ **Significance:** In the Indian context, rice is an ideal means of supplying micronutrients as **65% of the country's population uses rice** as their staple food.
- ❖ **Rice Fortification:** Rice fortification involves adding a nutrient-rich part (rice kernel) to regular rice (custom milled rice) with micronutrients (iron, folic acid, vitamin B12) as per the standards set by FSSAI.

### Awards/Prizes

#### Nobel Prize in Literature 2024



- ❖ The 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded to **South Korean writer Han Kang**.
- ❖ The award was given for "**her intensely poetic prose**, which confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life."
- ❖ Han Kang began her career in **1993** with the publication of several poems in the magazine '**Literature and Society**'.
- ❖ She is the **first Korean writer** to receive this honor.

### Persons in News- Obituary

**Dr. P. Venugopal**



Former AIIMS director Dr P Venugopal passed away recently.

He was 82 years old.

He was a pioneer in the field of cardiac surgery who performed the **first heart transplant in India** and performed over 50,000 heart surgeries in his career.

He was from Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh.

### Persons in News- Sports

**Rafael Nadal**



Spanish tennis legend Rafael Nadal has announced his **retirement** from professional tennis.

38-year-old Nadal will play his last match for Spain in the Davis Cup final in Malaga in November.

He has won 22 Grand Slam titles in his career.

### Important Days/Dates

**12 October**

**World Migratory Bird Day**



विश्व प्रवासी पक्षी दिवस

- ❖ World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated on **12 October**.
- ❖ The World Migratory Bird Day campaign in 2024 focuses on the importance of insects for migratory birds and will highlight concerns regarding declining insect populations.
- ❖ **This year's theme:** "Protect insects, protect birds", emphasizes the vital role of insects in the life cycle of many migratory birds and draws attention to the alarming global decline in insect populations.

### Sports

#### 'Legends League Cricket Tournament'

- ❖ The 'Legends League Cricket Tournament' has started in the Kashmir Valley.
- ❖ This tournament will be played from 9 October to 16 October at Bakshi Stadium.
- ❖ **Note:** Srinagar has hosted only two international matches so far. The first was in 1983 (India and West Indies) and the second in 1986 (India and Australia).

### Important News- Other States

**Sikkim**

- ❖ The first phase of the **2nd Army Commanders' Conference for the year 2024** was held at Gangtok, Sikkim from 10 to 11 October.
- ❖ The two-day conference will serve as a platform for senior commanders to review current operational preparedness, deliberate on key strategies and chart the future course.
- ❖ The second phase of the Army Commanders' Conference will be held on 28 and 29 October in Delhi.

### Rajasthan, Punjab

- ❖ Recently, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the construction of 2,280 km of road in the border areas of Rajasthan and Punjab at a cost of **Rs 4,406 crore**, with an emphasis on the **development of infrastructure in the border areas**.
- ❖ This will have a positive impact on road and telecommunication connectivity and water supply, health and education facilities, as well as enhance rural livelihoods, ease travel and ensure connectivity of these areas with the highway network.
- ❖ Indian President Draupadi Murmu will be on a visit to three African countries; Algeria, Mauritania and Malawi from **13 to 19 October**. This will be the first visit of an Indian head of state to these three African countries.
- ❖ The James Webb Space Telescope has discovered carbon dioxide on Pluto's moon **Charon**, at the edge of the solar system. Pluto's moon Charon is the largest moon orbiting any dwarf planet in our solar system.

### Miscellaneous

- ❖ Recently the Ministry of Labour and Employment has announced setting up of **10 new ESIC Medical Colleges** and extension of Unemployment Allowance Scheme for ESI Corporation members till June 2026.

