

21th October 2024

16th BRICS summit

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Russia from October 22-23 to attend the 16th BRICS summit in **Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan.**

Key Points-

- ❖ This conference will be held under the chairmanship of Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- ❖ **Main discussion:** In this summit, the leaders of **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa will discuss global issues** and cooperation among BRICS countries.
- ❖ **Theme of the conference:** "Strengthening multilateralism for equitable global development and security", which focuses on promoting international cooperation and addressing challenges in global governance.
- ❖ This will be the Prime Minister's second visit to Russia in the year 2024, earlier he visited Moscow for a **bilateral summit** on July 8-9.

BRICS

- ❖ BRICS is an inter-governmental organisation that brings together major emerging economies.
- ❖ The BRIC grouping began in **2006** when the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India and China first gathered in St. Petersburg. The first BRIC summit was held on 16 June 2009 in Yekaterinburg, Russia.
- ❖ The BRIC group was renamed BRICS after South Africa was accepted as a full member at the BRIC foreign ministers meeting in New York in **September 2010.**

- ❖ BRICS represents **41 per cent of the world's population, 24 percent of global GDP and over 16 percent of world trade.**
- ❖ Its members include **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.**

IRCTC

Recently Indian Railways has reduced the advance booking time for train tickets from **120 days to 60 days.**

Key Point

- ❖ The changed rules will mean that passengers will now be able to book IRCTC train tickets only 60 days before the scheduled departure of the train, whereas the current advance booking period is 120 days.
- ❖ **Effective Date:** The new rule of Indian Railways will come into effect from **November 1, 2024.**
- ❖ There is no change in this provision in the case of express trains running on certain days like **Taj Express, Gomti Express**, as these already have a shorter time limit for advance reservation.
- ❖ There will also be no change in the case of the **365-day limit for foreign tourists.**
- ❖ **Target:** Indian Railways plans to carry 7.5 billion passengers in 2024-25, which is 9% more than the previous year.

Section 6A of the Citizenship Act

The Supreme Court has by majority declared Section 6A of the Citizenship Act as constitutional.

Key Points-

- ❖ The Supreme Court, in its majority verdict, has upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, which **grants citizenship to migrants in Assam.**
- ❖ **Verdict by 4:1:** Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, Justice Surya Kant, Justice MM Sundresh and Justice Manoj Mishra agreed on the validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act.
- ❖ According to the court, the central government has a duty to protect the states from external aggression. Treating the duty under Article 355 as a right would give emergency powers to citizens and courts, which would be disastrous.
- ❖ **Background:** Section 6A of the Citizenship Act was added in 1985 as an amendment to further the Assam Accord. According to which, those who came from other areas including **Bangladesh in 1985 before January 1966 and March 1971 will have to register under Section 18** to obtain Indian citizenship.

Major decisions of the Supreme Court:

- ❖ The deadline of March 25, 1971, for entry into Assam and grant of citizenship is correct.
- ❖ The **existence of different ethnic groups in a state does not violate Article 29(1).** For this, the petitioner has to prove that one ethnic group cannot protect its language and culture because another ethnic group also lives there.

- ❖ According to the court, **registration is not the only way to grant citizenship in India** and Section 6A cannot be held unconstitutional just because it does not provide a process for registration.
- ❖ The court will also now monitor the identification and deportation of Bangladeshis.

Report/Index

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2024

According to the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2024, more than 1.1 billion people live in extreme poverty.

Key Points-

- ❖ **Issuer:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) based at the University of Oxford
- ❖ The Global MPI Database presents MPI data for 112 countries.

Highlights of the report:

- ❖ According to the index, **1.1 billion out of 6.3 billion people live in acute multidimensional poverty**, with India having the highest number of poor people, followed by Pakistan.
- ❖ **Top countries:** The five countries with the most people living in poverty are **India (234 million)**, Pakistan (93 million), Ethiopia (86 million), Nigeria (74 million) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (66 million).
- ❖ **Highest percentage of children:** Approximately 584 million people under the age of 18 live in extreme poverty, representing 27.9% of all children globally, compared to 13.5% of adults.

- ❖ 83.2% of the world's poorest people live in **sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia**.
- ❖ Low-income countries, which comprise 10.2% of the total population, account for 34.8% (400 million) of the total poor people. In addition, 65.2% of the poor (749 million) live in middle-income countries.
- ❖ **War-affected countries:** Of the 1.1 billion poor people, 218 million (19.0 percent) live in war-affected countries.
 - Nearly 40 percent of poor people (455 million) live in countries characterized by war, fragility and/or little peace.
- ❖ **Lack of resources:** Common deprivations include lack of adequate housing, sanitation, electricity, cooking fuel, nutrition, and school attendance.

Person in News- Sports

Virat Kohli



He completed **9,000 Test runs** in the ongoing first match against New Zealand at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, achieving the feat during India's second innings.

Virat Kohli became the **fourth Indian batsman** after Sachin Tendulkar (15,921), Rahul Dravid (13,265) and Sunil Gavaskar (10,122) to achieve the feat.

Person in News- Obituary

Debraj Roy



Recently actor Debraj Roy passed away in Kolkata at the **age of 69**.

He made significant contributions to **Bengali cinema** and television and was also associated with All India Radio.

He began his cinematic career with Satyajit Ray's **Pratidwandi (1970)** and rose to fame with his performance in Mrinal Sen's **Calcutta 71 (1971)**.

Important Days

19 October

World Pediatric Bone and Joint Day



- ❖ World Pediatric Bone and Joint Day is celebrated every year on October 19.
- ❖ The day aims to spread awareness about the impact of musculoskeletal conditions in children.

20 October

World Statistics Day



- ❖ World Statistics Day is celebrated all over the world on **20 October**.
- ❖ It is celebrated **every five years** and was first celebrated on 20 October 2010.
- ❖ World Statistics Day is celebrated to celebrate the contribution of statistics to the socio-economic development of the world under the guidance of the **United Nations Statistical Commission**.

Sports

ISSF World Cup Final 2024

- ❖ Recently, **Vivan Kapoor** of India won the **silver medal in men's skeet (44 points)** at the ISSF World Cup Final 2024 held in New Delhi, finishing behind Ying Qiu (47) of the People's Republic of China.
 - Ann Tolga Tuncer of Türkiye won the bronze medal (35 points) of this event.
- ❖ **Anantjit Singh Naruka** won the **bronze** medal in the trap event.
- ❖ **Sonam Maskar** won the **silver** medal in the women's 10-meter air rifle shooting event.
- ❖ **Akhil Sheoran** won the **bronze** medal in the men's 50-meter rifle 3 position shooting event.
- ❖ Indian shooters won a **total of four medals** in this competition, including two silver and two bronze.

Note: **Anish Bhanwala** won the only bronze medal for India at the 2023 ISSF World Cup Final in Doha.

Important News- Other States

New Delhi

- ❖ The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways inaugurated the **International Methanol Symposium and Exhibition** organised by NITI Aayog in New Delhi.
- ❖ The exhibition highlighted the **importance of converting waste into wealth and using materials like old tyre powder and plastic in road construction**.
- ❖ The importance of waste to energy technologies, especially production of bio-CNG from rice straw was also emphasised.
- ❖ The seminar also discussed the **problem of stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana**.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ State-owned BEML will build **India's first indigenous bullet train** at a cost of Rs 866.87 crore. According to BEML, it has received the contract for designing, manufacturing and commissioning two high-speed trainsets.
 - The order placed by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, a production unit of Indian Railways, will have **eight cars (coaches)** in each train.



- ❖ The Central Board of Direct Taxes has amended the Income Tax rules for salaried employees. These are aimed at simplifying the process of tax collection at source and credit claim for taxes deducted.
- This also includes **claiming tax collected at source credit for parents of minors**. In case of salaried employees, tax collected at source or tax deducted at source is taken into account for the purpose of tax deduction.

