

25th October 2024**8th Deepotsav**

Ayodhya is set to host the grand Deepotsav celebration from 28-30th October, 2024.

Key Points

- ❖ This year Ayodhya will be lit with record-breaking 25 lakh lamps, surpassing the 22.23 lakh lamps illuminated last year.
- ❖ In a bid to create a new Guinness world record, 1,100 Vedacharyas will perform the Saryu Aarti, highlighting the spiritual significance of the event.

दीपोत्सव पर एक बार फिर विश्व रेकॉर्ड बनाने की तैयारी
**25 लाख दीपों से जगमग होगी अयोध्या,
1100 वेदाचार्य करेंगे सरयू की आरती**

- ❖ During Deepotsav, artists from 16 states including host Uttar Pradesh will also participate in Ramnagari Ayodhya. Artists from Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Bihar, Chandigarh, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh will also present cultural programs.
- ❖ Artists from six countries: Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Malaysia and Nepal will present Ramlilas in the event.

16th BRICS Summit

The Prime Minister of India participated in the 16th BRICS summit.

Key Points

- ❖ **Host:** 16th BRICS summit was held in the city of Kazan, Russia. Kazan is one of Russia's largest and wealthiest cities.

- ❖ **Dates:** It was held October 22nd to 24th, 2024.
- ❖ **Theme:** The summit was held under the theme: 'Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security'.
- ❖ It was the first summit of BRICS countries after the expansion.
- ❖ **Participants:** Leaders of more than 20 nations, including Chinese President Xi Jinping, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, participated in the summit.

**Key Takeaways**

- ❖ The BRICS leaders had productive discussions including on strengthening multilateralism, countering terrorism, fostering economic growth, pursuing sustainable development and bringing spotlight on the concerns of the Global South.
- ❖ The leaders welcomed the 13 new BRICS partner countries.
- ❖ At the conclusion of the Summit, the leaders adopted the 'Kazan Declaration'.

Geopolitical Concerns

- ❖ The summit addressed pressing international conflicts, with the declaration emphasising the need for peaceful resolution through diplomacy.

- ❖ **Ukraine conflict:** the leaders reaffirmed the importance of adhering to the principles of the United Nations Charter and welcomed mediation efforts.
- ❖ **Middle East Crisis:** The leader also voiced grave concern over the escalating humanitarian crisis in the Middle East.

Global Governance and Multilateralism

- ❖ **G20 Role:** The summit underscored the importance of the G20 in global decision-making.
- ❖ **Financial Architecture Reform:** The BRICS nations reiterated their pledge to improve global governance by advocating for a more agile, responsive, and representative multilateral system. This includes reforms to the international financial architecture and promoting inclusive growth.
- ❖ **Financial Innovation:** The leaders encouraged new financial practices. The BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism (ICM) was focussed on facilitating and expanding innovative financial practices.

Economic Cooperation and Local Currencies

- ❖ **Cross-Border Payments:** A key highlight of the summit was the agreement to strengthen trade and financial settlements in local currencies. The declaration welcomed the use of local currencies in BRICS financial transactions and supported the exploration of an independent cross-border settlement infrastructure.
- ❖ **BRICS Clear depository:** The BRICS nations agreed to explore initiatives that could further integrate their economies, such as establishing a BRICS Grain Exchange and studying the feasibility of a BRICS Cross-Border Payment System and BRICS (Re)Insurance Company.

- ❖ **BRICS Grain Exchange:** The establishment of a BRICS-based grain exchange was welcomed. This is the initiative of the Russian side to establish a grain (commodities) trading platform within BRICS.

Pandemic Preparedness and Environmental Conservation

- ❖ **Big Cats:** India's initiative to create an International Big Cats Alliance received recognition, as BRICS countries pledged to collaborate on preserving endangered species.
- ❖ **Global South:** As BRICS continues to expand its partnerships with the Global South, the bloc aims to strengthen its influence in global governance and provide a platform for emerging markets and developing countries to work together.

About BRICS

- ❖ In 2006, Brazil, Russia, India and China created the "Bric" group.
- ❖ The acronym BRIC was first used in 2001 by Goldman Sachs in their Global Economics Paper, 'The World Needs Better Economic BRICs'.
- ❖ The first **BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009.**
- ❖ It was decided to include South Africa at the BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York in 2010
- ❖ The group was designed to bring together the world's most important developing countries, to challenge the political and economic power of the wealthier nations of North America and Western Europe.

- ❖ In 2023, during the 15th BRICS Summit (held in South Africa) **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia were invited to join BRICS.**

Brazil has taken over the next president of the group.

Why does Brics matter?

- ❖ Brics countries include major world powers, such as China and Russia, and countries which are **influential on their continent, such as South Africa and Brazil.**
- ❖ The expanded group has a combined population of about **3.5 billion, or 45% of the world's inhabitants.**
- ❖ Combined, **members' economies are worth more than \$28.5tn - about 28% of the global economy.**

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

On 23rd October 2024, Home minister of India announced that the government will commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, on October 31 next year, with two-year nationwide celebrations from 2024 to 2026.

Key Points

- ❖ Sardar Patel was born in **Nadiad, Gujarat on October 31.**
- ❖ He was a **Congress leader and the first home minister of independent India.**
- ❖ He is credited with integrating 562 princely states to build the Republic of India.
- ❖ He is known as the Iron Man of India.
- ❖ He was the **first Deputy Prime Minister of independent India.**
- ❖ In 1928 Patel successfully led the landowners of Bardoli in their resistance

against increased taxes. His efficient leadership of the Bardoli campaign earned him the title sardar.

In **2014**, the government declared that his birth anniversary shall be observed as National Unity Day every year.

In **2018**, PM of India inaugurated Patel's 182-metre statue '**Statue of Unity**'; at Kevadia in Gujarat. It has the distinction of being the world's tallest statue.

In **2019**, PM of India had dedicated the government's historic decision to nullify Article 370 in J&K to Patel, saying that Sardar Patel dream of J&K's full integration with the Union of India, had been fulfilled.

PM-YASASVI

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has implemented the **PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI).**

Key Points

- ❖ This comprehensive umbrella scheme is aimed at uplifting students from **Other Backward Classes (OBC), Economically Backward Classes (EBC), and Denotified Tribes (DNT)** by providing them with access to quality education during their formative years.
- ❖ The PM YASASVI scheme **consolidates and enhances several earlier initiatives**, including the Dr. Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for EBCs and the Dr. Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for DNTs, which were subsumed under this program starting from 2021-22.
- ❖ The **award of scholarships is at two levels:** For students who are studying in

Class IX and For students who are studying in Class XI.

- ❖ Selection of candidates for award of Scholarships under the Scheme is through a written test known as YASASVI ENTRANCE TEST (YET) 2023.
- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has entrusted the responsibility of conducting the YASASVI ENTRANCE TEST-2023 to the National Testing Agency.

The **National Testing Agency (NTA)** was established by the Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India (GOI).

It has been established as an independent, autonomous, and self-sustained premier testing organization under the **Societies Registration Act (1860)**.

It is for conducting efficient, transparent and international standards tests in order to assess the competency of candidates for admissions to premier higher education institutions.

Short News- Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government is going to introduce the **Upliftment Programme for Minority Girls (UPMG)** scheme in order to provide employment to the Triple Talaq victims.
 - The government will not just provide career counselling for the Triple Talaq victims, but also provide them employment opportunities to connect them with the mainstream of the society and make them financially independent.

Important Days/Dates

October 24

United Nations Day



- ❖ United Nations Day is observed every year on **October 24th** to mark the anniversary of the entry into force of the **United Nations Charter in 1945**.
- ❖ The United Nations was established **after World War II** to promote peace, security, and cooperation among countries.
- ❖ On 25 April 1945, 50 government representatives came together in San Francisco to draft the UN Charter.
- ❖ This draft was adopted on 25 June and officially implemented on 24 October, marking the birth of the United Nations.

October 24

International Gibbon Day



- ❖ It is celebrated on **October 24 every year**.
- ❖ It **originated in 2015** when the IUCN Primate Specialist Group established the day as a commemoration to draw public attention to gibbon protection.
- ❖ China has six species of gibbons out of the 20 currently living across the world.

Important News- Other States

Andhra Pradesh

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has **approved the establishment of a new missile testing range in Nagayalanka, Andhra Pradesh**. This move is aimed at strengthening the country's defence capabilities, particularly in testing tactical missile systems.

Rajasthan

The foundation stone for a people's **Right to Information-museum was recently laid at Bewar, Rajasthan** (the birthplace of the RTI movement) with focus on digital exclusion in social security pensions.

Important News- Worldwide

Hong Kong

The **Hong Kong government has barred most civil servants from using popular apps like WhatsApp, WeChat and Google Drive** on their work computers due to potential security risks.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe posted the **highest team score in the history of T20Is** as they posted a mammoth **344/4** from their 20 overs against **Gambia** in their **T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier Group B** held in Nairobi.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ The Indian Army hosted the second edition of its flagship international seminar, the Chanakya Defence Dialogue, at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
 - Theme of the dialogue was **"Drivers in Nation Building: Fuelling Growth Through Comprehensive Security"**.
- ❖ The **55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is to be held in Goa** from 20th November to 28th November 2024. **Australia** has been nominated as the "Country of Focus".
- ❖ **Actor Darasing Khurana has received the Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award** for his work towards raising awareness around mental health issues as the 'Commonwealth Year of Youth Champion'.

