

International Relations

8th Future Investment Initiative (FII)

Why in the news?

The 8th Future Investment Initiative (FII) conference occurred in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh.

- ❖ Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal from India participated in the conference.

About the Conference:

- ❖ It is the largest international investment and innovation forum in the Middle East, attracting many political and business leaders every year.
- ❖ It is popularly known as "Davos in the Desert"
- ❖ Theme 2024: "Infinite Horizons: Investing Today, Shaping Tomorrow,"



Economy

Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)

Why in the news?

The combined Index of Eight Core Industries increased by 2.0 percent (provisional) in September 2024 compared to September 2023.

- ❖ Cement, Refinery Products, Coal, Fertilizers and Steel production recorded positive growth in September 2024.
- ❖ The final growth rate of the Index of Eight Core Industries for June 2024 stands at 5.0 percent.
- ❖ The cumulative growth rate of ICI from April to September 2024-25 is 4.2 percent (provisional) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

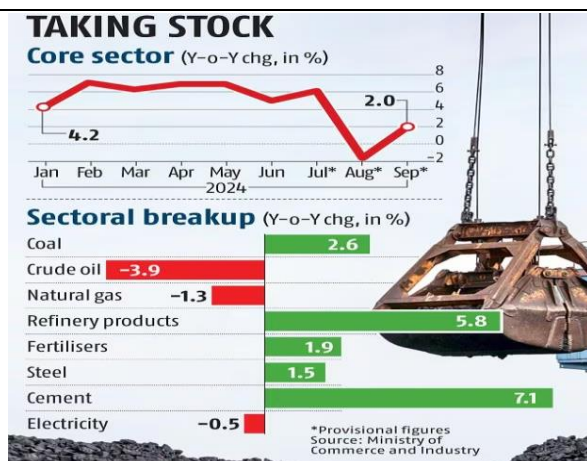
What is the Index of Eight Core Industries?

- ❖ It measures the combined and individual performance of production of eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.
- ❖ The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Summary of Eight Core Industries

- ❖ Coal - Coal production (weight: 10.33 percent) increased by 2.6 per cent in September, 2024 over September 2023.
- ❖ Crude Oil - Crude Oil production (weight: 8.98 per cent) declined by 3.9 per cent in September, 2024 over September, 2023.

- ❖ **Natural Gas** - Natural Gas production (weight: 6.88 per cent) declined by 1.3 per cent in September, 2024 over September, 2023.
- ❖ **Petroleum Refinery Products** - Petroleum Refinery production (weight: 28.04 per cent) increased by 5.8 per cent in September, 2024 over September, 2023.
- ❖ **Fertilizers** - Fertilizer production (weight: 2.63 per cent) increased by 1.9 per cent in September, 2024 over September, 2023.
- ❖ **Steel** - Steel production (weight: 17.92 per cent) increased by 1.5 per cent in September, 2024 over September, 2023.
- ❖ **Cement** - Cement production (weight: 5.37 per cent) increased by 7.1 per cent in September, 2024 over September, 2023.
- ❖ **Electricity** - Electricity generation (weight: 19.85 per cent) declined by 0.5 per cent in September, 2024 over September, 2023



Environment And Geography

Protected Planet Report 2024

Why in the news?

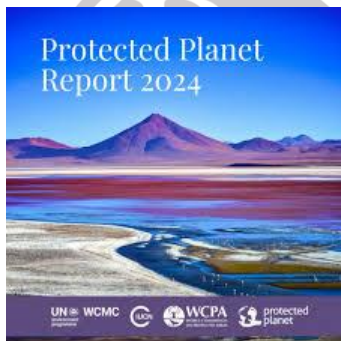
The Protected Planet Report 2024 was released at the 16th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16) held in Cali, Colombia.

- ❖ It provides data on progress in protected areas since the world adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) at COP15 in 2022.
- ❖ Under Target 3 of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), 30 percent of the land, inland water bodies and oceans have to be protected by 2030, a target popularly known as the 30x30 target.

Key details of the report:

- ❖ It revealed that the global coverage of protected and conserved areas has now reached 17.6 percent of terrestrial and inland waters and 8.4 percent of marine and coastal areas.
- It means we have to double the protection on land and triple that in marine areas by 2030 to meet the target

- ❖ The report has, for the first time, provided data on inland water. It showed that **16.5 percent** of wetlands are protected and 18 percent of rivers and streams by length are protected.
- ❖ In the case of marine protected areas, only **2.8 percent** of the ocean is in fully or highly protected marine protected areas.
- ❖ Only **3.95 percent** of the area covered by protected and conserved areas are governed by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) and **11.84 percent** are under shared governance.



Awards and Honors

Kendriya Grih Mantri Dakshata Padak

Why in the news?

The 'Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak' has been awarded to **463** personnel of various States/Union Territories (UTs)/Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)/Central Police Organisations (CPOs) for the year 2024.

About the medal:

- ❖ It has been instituted vide Ministry of Home Affairs' notification dated 1st February, 2024.
- ❖ It will be announced on the 31st of October every year on the occasion of the birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ❖ It is given to recognize excellent work, promote high professional standards and boost the morale of the concerned official/officer in the following four fields:
 - Special Operation.
 - Investigation.
 - Intelligence.
 - Forensic Science.

Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak (Gold)



Ribbon



Important Days/ Dates

National Unity Day

Why in the news?

National Unity Day is celebrated every year on **31st October** across the country.

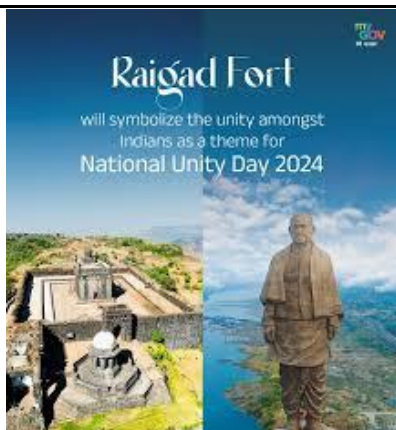
- ❖ **Objective:** To commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

- It serves as a reminder of his efforts to unite the diverse princely states into a single nation and fosters a spirit of solidarity among the people of the country.

- ❖ **History:** Since 2014, October 31 has been observed as National Unity Day.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- ❖ He was born on October 31, 1875, in Nadiad, Gujarat,
- ❖ He served as India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister from 1947 to 1950.
- ❖ Renowned for his exceptional leadership and unyielding commitment to national integration, he is fondly remembered as the Iron Man of India.
- ❖ He was awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1991.
- ❖ The Statue of Unity, located in Kevadia, Gujarat, is a tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.



News in Short

- ❖ Defence Minister of India, Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated the 'Desh ka Vallabh' statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and Major Ralengnao 'Bob' Khathing 'Museum of Valour' at Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh on **October 31, 2024**.
- ❖ The Haryana government has implemented a scheme **Rajya Vishisht Yojana** to curb the incidents of stubble burning.
 - It provides farmers with financial assistance for managing crop residue, while also setting zero burning targets for panchayats.
- ❖ The Wagh Bakri Tea Group has been honored with the prestigious "Generational Legacy Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Indian Economy" by Hurun India.
- ❖ According to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu:
 - The upcoming 'Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park' Bankhandi in the Dehra assembly constituency of the Kangra district would become **India's first zoo to receive certification** from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for its sustainable and eco-friendly initiatives.

❖ Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh made the "Guinness World Record" with 25 lakh diyas lit and 1,121 Vedacharyas performing aarti together on the eve of Deepawali.

❖ Mansi Ahlawat won Bronze in women's 59 kg at the Senior World Wrestling Championships held in Tirana, Albania.

**BPSC
WALLAH**

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