

20th September 2024

World Food India 2024

World Food India 2024 is being held in New Delhi.

Key Points

- ❖ The four-day long World Food India 2024 event begins on 19th September 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- ❖ **Participation:** It will see participation from over 90 countries, 26 Indian States and Union Territories, and 18 Central Ministries and allied government bodies.
- ❖ The event promises to be a major convergence of innovation, technology, and sustainability in the food processing sector.
- ❖ **Hosted by:** It's the third edition of the event and is being hosted by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).



- ❖ **Partner Country:** In this year's World Food India, Japan is the partner country.
- ❖ **Focus Country:** Vietnam and Iran are the focus countries.
- ❖ **Swaad Sutra:** To broaden the appeal of the mega event, the organizers have launched the Swaad Sutra, a culinary contest showcasing regional dishes from across India.
- ❖ **RBSM meet:** The Reverse Buyer Seller Meet (RBSM) is planned by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The RBSM will witness a seamless collaboration as all these Commodity boards converge for a combined effort to make the event a grand success. The meet will offer an

array of advantages, including enhanced market access, interactions with potential partners, exposure to new products and innovations, insightful discussions on industry trends, and the creation of valuable B2B connections.

- ❖ The 2nd edition of the Global Food Regulators Summit hosted by FSSAI is being held in conjunction with World Food India.

First edition: With the objective of introducing the world to rich Indian food culture as well as promoting investments in the diverse food processing sector of the country, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries launched the first edition of World Food India in 2017.

Periyar EV Ramasamy

Rationalist social reformer Periyar EV Ramasamy was remembered on the occasion of his 146th birth anniversary

About Periyar

- ❖ He was born in 1879.
- ❖ He was an Indian social activist and politician who started the **Self-Respect Movement and Dravidar Kazhagam (DK)**.
- ❖ He is known as the '**Father of the Dravidian movement**'.
- ❖ The title "**Periyar**," means "**Respected Elder**".
- ❖ Periyar died in 1973 at the age of 94.

Political Career:

- ❖ **Beginning:**
 - Periyar began his political career as a Congress worker in Erode in 1919.

❖ Vaikom Satyagraha (1924)

- Periyar's fame grew beyond the Tamil region during the Vaikom Satyagraha, a mass movement demanding equal access to a public path in front of the Vaikom temple for lower-caste individuals.
- He actively participated in the agitation with his wife and was arrested twice, earning him the title **"Vaikom Veerar" (Hero of Vaikom)**.



❖ Self-Respect Movement (1925)

- The Self-Respect Movement was a significant social reform movement that originated in Tamil Nadu, South India, in 1925.
- The movement aimed to promote social equality and eradicate the caste system, which was deeply entrenched in Indian society.

❖ Dravidar Kazhagam

- In the 1940s, Periyar launched Dravidar Kazhagam, which espoused an independent Dravida Nadu comprising Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, and Kannada speakers.
- The Dravidian linguistic family was the foundation on which he based his idea of a Dravida national identity.

Social Justice Day

- ❖ Since 2021, the Indian state of Tamil Nadu has celebrated his birth anniversary as 'Social Justice Day'.

Pagers

On 18th September 2024, at least nine people were killed and nearly 3,000 wounded in Lebanon after thousands of wireless devices used by Hezbollah members exploded.

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A senior Lebanese security source claimed that Israel's Mossad spy agency planted explosives inside 5,000 Taiwan-made pagers or "beepers" ordered by the Iran-backed group months before the blasts.

What are pagers?

A pager or 'beeper' is a small, portable communication device that **receives short messages, typically numeric or alphanumeric, over a radio frequency signal.**

Usage: Pagers were widely used before cell phones became popular. It was a crucial communication tool, especially for professionals like doctors, journalists, technicians, and managers. It allowed them to receive important messages and sound alerts, even in remote areas.

How do pagers work?

- ❖ The operation of a pager was straightforward yet efficient. When a message was sent via radio waves, the device would alert the user with a distinct beep. This prompt would then require the user to locate a nearby public or landline phone to respond to the message.
- ❖ **Patent:** The first pager was patented in the US in 1949 by inventor Alfred Gross.
- ❖ **Term usage:** The term "pager" was officially registered in 1959 by Motorola.
- ❖ **Pageboy 1:** Motorola's first pager, the Pageboy 1 created in 1964, allowed an audible alert to be sent by telephone before the technology was perfected and allowed, from the 80s, to send written messages

- ❖ As technology progressed, pagers underwent significant improvements. The newer models were equipped with a small screen, enabling them to display short messages directly on the device.
- ❖ By the 1990s, mobile phones started to replace these little devices. The convenience of mobile phones quickly diminished the demand for pagers, and by the late 1990s, beepers had mostly vanished from public use.

Why Hezbollah members still use pagers

- ❖ The recent cyberattack targeting Iran-backed Hezbollah revealed that pagers, which many assumed had become obsolete, were still in use by the group.
- ❖ The pagers were used by Hezbollah fighters as a **low-tech means of communication to evade Israeli location-tracking**.
- ❖ Pagers use their own frequency and are **therefore considered more reliable** as they bypass mobile telephone networks that can be impacted by frequent interruptions, connection issues or can be intercepted.

Metformin

A study titled 'Metformin decelerates aging clock in male monkeys' found that metformin, a common diabetes drug, slows aging in male monkeys, particularly in their brains.

Key Points

- ❖ Metformin is an anti-diabetic medication (biguanide)
- ❖ It is widely used to **treat type 2 diabetes mellitus and polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS)**.

- ❖ **Introduced:** It was first introduced for diabetes treatment in France during the 1950s.

Windfall Tax

On 17th September 2024, the government of India announced the scrapping of windfall tax on crude oil from Rs 1,850 per tonne.

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As per the government notification, this has been effective from September 18, 2024.

What is the Windfall tax?

- ❖ A windfall tax is a tax levied by governments against certain industries when economic conditions allow those industries to experience significantly above-average profits. Windfall taxes are primarily levied on companies in the targeted industry that have benefited the most from the economic windfall, most often commodity-based businesses.

Windfall tax in India

- ❖ India imposed a windfall tax on crude oil producers from July 2022 and extended the levy on exports of gasoline, diesel and aviation fuel, as private refiners wanted to sell fuel overseas to gain from robust refining margins instead of selling locally.

Previous Slashes

- ❖ This is the second time since the tax was imposed that it is reduced to nil. Last time on April 4, 2023, the centre had reduced it to zero.
- ❖ The Union government, on August 31, slashed windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to Rs 1,850 per tonne from previous Rs 2,100 per tonne.

Project Cheetah

On 17th September 2024, Project Cheetah completed two years.

Key Points

- ❖ An ambitious project of the Central government of reintroducing Cheetahs in India successfully completed two years after being declared extinct in 1952.
- ❖ **First translocation:** Two years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reintroduced the Cheetahs in India by releasing the first batch of eight Cheetah, brought from Namibia on September 17, 2022 at Kuno National Park located in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district.
- ❖ **Implementing Body:** National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment.
- ❖ As a part of the project the Indian government hopes to bring **50 cheetahs from African countries to various national parks over the next five years.**
 - In 2022, eight Cheetahs - brought from Namibia - were introduced in India under Project Cheetah. Subsequently, twelve cheetahs from South Africa were also translocated and released in Kuno National Park in February 2023.

Simultaneous Elections

On 18th September 2024, the union cabinet accepted recommendations of the High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections.

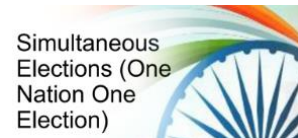
Background

- ❖ The panel headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind had submitted the report in March 2024 ahead of the announcement of Lok Sabha elections.

- ❖ Placing the report before the Cabinet was a part of the law ministry's 100-day agenda.

Recommendations

- ❖ **Two Phases:** The high-level committee had recommended simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies as the first step followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days.



- ❖ **Implementation Group:** The panel had also proposed setting up an 'Implementation Group' to look into the execution of the recommendations made by the committee.
- ❖ **Common electoral roll:** The panel also recommended the preparation of a common electoral roll and voter ID cards by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in consultation with state election authorities.
 - At present, the ECI is responsible for the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, while the local body polls for municipalities and panchayats are managed by state election commissions.

Simultaneous elections: recommendations of high-level committee

1. Elections were held simultaneously between 1951 and 1967.
2. Law Commission: 170th report (1999): One election to Lok Sabha and all Legislative Assemblies in five years.
3. Parliamentary Committee 79th Report (2015): suggest methods for simultaneous elections in two phases.

UP- First Floating Restaurant

Uttar Pradesh first state's first floating restaurant in Gorakhpur.

Key Points

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh chief minister has inaugurated the first floating restaurant of the state in Ramgarh tal, Gorakhpur.
- ❖ The construction of this floating restaurant began on August 17, 2022.
- ❖ The three-storied floating restaurant has an area of 9600 square ft and can accommodate 150 tourists at a time.
- ❖ It is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and named 'Float'.
- ❖ This floating restaurant would pay ₹4.50 lakh per month rent to Gorakhpur Development Authority (GDA). The GDA and the company have signed an agreement for 15 years.
- ❖ The floating restaurant, built at a cost exceeding ₹10 crore, meets the standards of the Indian Registrar of Shipping and is set to become a major attraction for tourists and locals alike.

In the past seven years, the Yogi government has significantly transformed the Ramgarh Tal area, making it a popular destination known as the 'Marine Drive' of Gorakhpur. Already established as a premier tourist hotspot in eastern Uttar Pradesh, Ramgarh Tal offers attractions like the Lake Queen Cruise, and now visitors will be able to experience dining also at the floating restaurant.

Person In News- Appointments

Samir Kumar

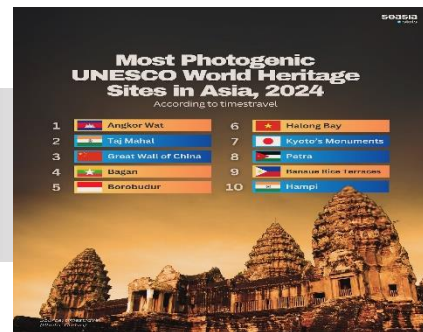
He has been appointed as Amazon India's New Country Manager.

Manoj Kumar Verma

He has been appointed as the new Commissioner of Kolkata Police. This decision came shortly after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee decided to remove Vineet Goyal from the position.

Reports

Most photogenic UNESCO World Heritage site in Asia



- ❖ Angkor Wat, Cambodia, has been named the most photogenic UNESCO World Heritage site in Asia, according to a recent ranking by Times Travel.
- ❖ These UNESCO World Heritage sites are not only significant cultural treasures but also visual wonders.
- ❖ Otherworld heritage sites on the list included India's Taj Mahal, China's Great Wall, Myanmar's Bagan, Indonesia's Borobudur, Vietnam's Halong Bay, Kyoto's Historical Monuments of Japan, Jordan's Petra, the Rice Terraces of the Philippines Cordilleras, and India's Hampi.

