

24 October 2024

MP's Datia district hospital and medical college installed 'pink alarms' for women's safety



Key Points:

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh's Datia district hospital and medical college installed 'pink alarms' for women's safety.
- ❖ The initiative was introduced after the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata.
- ❖ The pink alarm system is the brainchild of district collector Sandeep Makin.
- ❖ The pressing of an alarm will set off a siren and within five minutes the security personnel will reach the person in trouble.
- ❖ The pink alarm system, created by district collector Sandeep Makin, alerts security within five minutes of activation.
- ❖ Alarms are installed in staff duty rooms across the Maternity Ward, Trauma Center, and New OPD Block.
- ❖ It is the first government hospital in the state to provide this facility for women's security

First-ever coal gallery inaugurated at National Science Centre in New Delhi



Key Points:

- ❖ Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Minister of State for Coal and Mines Satish Chandra Dubey unveiled the first-ever coal gallery at the National Science Centre in New Delhi.

- ❖ The exhibition – 'Black Diamond – Unveiling the Depths' – is based on the lifespan of coal and aims to provide information about the discovery of coal, the Coal extraction process, techniques used to extract coal.

Bala Devi becomes first Indian woman to score 50 international goals



Key Points:

- ❖ Bala Devi, often referred to as the "goal machine" of Indian women's football, etched her name in the history books by becoming the first Indian woman to score her 50th international goal during the 2024 SAFF Women's Championship in Nepal, in a match against Pakistan.
- ❖ Bala Devi started her career in Manipur, where she showcased her talent from a young age, earning accolades at various youth tournaments. After a stint in Spain with Málaga, she returned to India to join Odisha WFC.
- ❖ Her professional journey began with New Radiant WSC in the Maldives in 2014, and she later made headlines by signing with Rangers in Scotland, where she became the first Indian woman to score in a European professional league.

Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps conducts 'Swavlamban Shakti' exercise



Key Points:

- ❖ To enhance combat capabilities through the integration of niche and emerging technologies, the Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps of Southern Command is conducting 'Exercise SWAVLAMBAN SHAKTI' at Babina Field Firing Ranges near Jhansi.
- ❖ The XXI Corps or Sudarshan Chakra Corps, a strike corps of the army, is headquartered in Bhopal.
- ❖ The exercise that aims to integrate New Technology Equipment (NTEs) into the Army's offensive strategies, ensuring readiness for future warfare scenarios, started in the presence of Lt Gen Prit Pal Singh, General Officer Commanding of Sudarshan Chakra Corps.
- ❖ Approximately 1,800 personnel, 210 armoured vehicles, 50 specialist vehicles, and a range of aviation assets are participating in the exercise.

22 October - International Stuttering Awareness Day



Key Points:

- ❖ International Stuttering Awareness Day is celebrated on October 22 annually to spread public awareness about the issues which have been faced by a large number of people.
- ❖ Theme 2024 - The Power of Listening - People Who Stutter Have The Unique Opportunity To Teach
- ❖ The World To Listen 22 October - International Stuttering Awareness Day
What is stuttering?

- ❖ It is a disorder in speech patterns in a person's speech involving loss of control of speech. Stuttering creates a hindrance to the capacity to speak fluently in a person with others.

Veteran Actor Debraj Roy passes away



Key Points:

- ❖ Veteran actor Debraj Roy passed away at the age of 69 in Kolkata. He made significant contributions to Bengali cinema and Doordarshan and was also associated with Akashvani.
- ❖ He collaborated with renowned directors such as Tarun Majumdar, Bibhuti Laha, and Tapan Sinha. Debraj Roy made his cinematic debut in Satyajit Ray's Pratidwandi in 1970, and the following year, he became a household name with his outstanding performance in Mrinal Sen's Calcutta 71.

World Iodine Deficiency Day



Key Points:

- ❖ World Iodine Deficiency Day, also known as Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day, is observed annually on 21st October.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the essential role of iodine in maintaining good health and to emphasize the consequences of iodine deficiency.

- ❖ Theme 2024 – Strengthening Public Health through Awareness and Action Iodine is an essential component of the thyroid hormones, thyroxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3), which regulate metabolism and are crucial for fetal and infant development.

IMF retains India’s growth forecast at 7 per cent for 2024-25



Key Points:

- ❖ The International Monetary Fund has retained its forecast for the Indian economic growth rate of 7 % for 2024-25 and 6.5 % for the 2025-26 financial year.
- ❖ The IMF made the latest projection on the Indian and world economies in its October 2024 edition of the World Economic Outlook report, titled 'Policy Pivot, Rising Threats.'
- ❖ According to the IMF, the decline in the Indian economy's growth rate is due to the exhaustion of the pent-up demand caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ According to the IMF, the Indian economy is expected to grow according to its potential.
- ❖ The IMF expects the Indian economy to grow by 6.5% from 2026-27 to 2030-31 fiscal years.
- ❖ However, a senior IMF official said India is still the world’s largest growing economy. The IMF releases the World Economic Outlook twice a calendar year at a six-month interval.
- ❖ The report analyses the world economy and its direction in the near and medium term. The last World Economic Report report was released in April 2024.

World Economy to Grow by 3.2% in 2024 and 2025

- ❖ According to the IMF, the world economy is expected to grow 3.2 % in 2024 and 2025.
- ❖ The world's largest economy, the United States, is expected to grow by 2.8 % in 2024 and by 2.2 % in 2025.
- ❖ The IMF expects the Chinese economy's growth rate to slow from an expected growth of 4.8 % in 2024 to 4.5% in 2025.

About International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- ❖ The International Monetary Fund is a global multilateral development bank set up in 1944.
- ❖ The IMF provides loans to the member countries facing economic crisis.
- ❖ Members ;189
- ❖ Headquarters: Washington D.C, USA
- ❖ Managing Director: Kristalina Georgieva

New Delhi host 6th India Singapore Defence Ministerial Dialogue 2024



Key Points:

- ❖ India and Singapore have agreed to strengthen their long-standing defence relationships and explore new areas of cooperation.
- ❖ This was agreed upon during the meeting between the Indian Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, and the visiting Singaporean Defence Minister, Dr Ng Eng Hen. India and Singapore have close ties, and their relationship was elevated to the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership level during Prime Minister Narendra's visit to Singapore from 3-5 September 2024.

- ❖ Dr Ng Eng Hen was on an official visit to India from 21 to 23 October 2024. After his meeting with Rajnath Singh, the Singapore defence minister also called upon President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

6th India-Singapore Defence Ministerial Dialogue

- ❖ The Singapore foreign minister was in India to attend the 6th India-Singapore Defence Ministerial Dialogue held on 22 October in New Delhi.
- ❖ The India-Singapore Defence Ministers' Dialogue was established in 2016. It is an official platform between the two countries to strengthen their bilateral defence cooperation.
- ❖ The 5th India-Singapore Defence Ministerial Dialogue meeting was held virtually in January 2021.
- ❖ The 6th India-Singapore Defence Ministerial Dialogue was co-chaired by the Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Singapore Defence Minister Dr Ng Eng Hen.

During the meeting, both leaders agreed to

- ❖ extend the Joint Military Training Army agreement for the next five years.
- ❖ Enhance defence-related industry cooperation and explore new areas of collaboration in niche domains such as automation and Artificial Intelligence.
- ❖ Increase cooperation in the newly emerging areas like cybersecurity.
- ❖ **India and Singapore held their first Cyber Policy Dialogue on 17 October 2024 in Singapore to strengthen Digital and Cyber Resilience between the two countries.**
- ❖ **During the meeting, Rajnath Singh appreciated Singapore's role as India's country coordinator in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting—Plus from 2021 to 2024.**

- ❖ **The Singapore Defence Minister also acknowledged India as a strategic voice for Asia's peace and stability.**

India Pakistan extends Kartarpur Corridor agreement till 2029



Key Points:

- ❖ The governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to extend the validity of the Agreement on Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor for five years until 24 October 2029.
- ❖ The initial agreement was to lapse on 24 October 2024.
- ❖ The agreement between the two countries comes in the background of the Minister for External Affairs, Dr S Jaishankar's visit to Pakistan for the 23rd Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisations (SCO) Council of Heads of Government, held in Islamabad on 15 & 16 October 2024.
- ❖ The latest agreement between the countries was announced by the Ministry of External Affairs on 22 October 2024.
- ❖ In Islamabad, Dr Jaishankar met the Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.
- ❖ It was the first direct talk between the foreign ministers of both countries since the 2015 visit of the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to Pakistan to attend the Heart of Asia Conference in Islamabad.

About the Kartarpur Corridor

- ❖ India and Pakistan signed an agreement in 2019 to facilitate Indian pilgrims' visits to the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan for five years. This agreement

established a corridor between the two countries through which the Indian pilgrims were to visit Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan and return to the country. This corridor is popularly called the Kartarpur Corridor.

- ❖ Indian pilgrims can visit Pakistan through the Kartarpur Corridor without a visa, but they must pay a \$20 per person fee.

What is the Kartarpur Corridor?

- ❖ The Kartarpur Corridor is a 4.1 km long road that starts in Dera Baba Nanak town in Gurdaspur district, Punjab and ends at the Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib in the Narowal district of Pakistani Punjab province.
- ❖ Kartarpur is located in Pakistani Punjab along the west bank of the Ravi River. It is a holy pilgrimage place for the Sikhs, where the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev Ji, spent the last 18 years of his life.

Rajasthan government set up Rajasthan Economic Revival Task Force



Key Points:

- ❖ The Bhajan Lal Sharma government in Rajasthan has constituted a highpowered Rajasthan Economic Revival Task Force for the holistic economic development of the state.
- ❖ The task force has been set up by the state government in pursuance to the announcement made by the State Finance Minister Diya Kumari in her 2024-25 budget speech.

Chairman and members of the Task Force

- ❖ Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma will be the Chairman of the Task Force and the Deputy Chief Minister and the Minister of Finance and Tourism, Diya Kumari will be the Deputy Chairman of the Task Force.
- ❖ The other members of the Task Force are Deputy Chief Minister Dr Prem Chand Bairwa, Agriculture Minister Dr Kirodi Lal Meena, Industries Minister Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and Energy Minister Heera Lal Nagar.
- ❖ The Chief Secretary, Sudhansh Pant and the heads of the concerned departments are also members of the Task Force, with the Finance Secretary (Budget) as the member secretary.
- ❖ The Task Force will also include experts in Agriculture, economic management, finance, infrastructure and development sectors. These experts will be non-official members of the task force and will be nominated by the state government.

Function of the Task Force

- ❖ The Task force will identify key economic sectors, including policy formulation and implementation, skill development and education, infrastructure development, promotion of innovation and technology, promotion of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and startups, tourism and cultural heritage, promotion of green growth.
- ❖ It will also make recommendation regarding economic and employment growth of the state.

Rajasthan Government to Organise Rising Rajasthan Global Investor Summit

- ❖ The Rajasthan government will organise Rising Rajasthan Global Investor Summit in Jaipur on 9-11 December 2024. In order to attract potential foreign investors for the global investor summit in Jaipur, the chief minister Bhajan Lal Sharma led a high powered delegation to Germany and the United Kingdom.

- ❖ The state government organised a Rising Rajasthan Tourism Meet in London, United Kingdom, to attract foreign investment in the state's heritage and wildlife tourism.
- ❖ The chief minister promoted Rajasthan as an exotic shooting location to the British filmmaker.
- ❖ Speaking on the occasion the Deputy Chief minister and Minister for Tourism, Diya Kumari said that Rajasthan attracted 1.8 crore domestic and 17 lakhs foreign visitors in 2023. The contribution of the tourism sector in the state's gross domestic product was 12 percent.

Rajasthan to set up world-class sports hub in Jaipur

- ❖ During his visit to London Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, the state government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Royal Multisport Pvt Ltd, the owner of Indian Premier League's Rajasthan Royals cricket team, at the Lord's Stadium.
- ❖ As per the MoU, a world-class sports hub will be established in Jaipur in partnership with Royal Multisport Pvt Ltd. The sports hub will include a world-class stadium, training infrastructure for all sports, essential sports medicine, and other sports facilities.
- ❖ The MoU was signed after a discussion between the chief minister, the owner of the Rajasthan Royals, Manoj Badale, and the Director of Cricket for the Rajasthan Royals, Kumar Sangakkara.

Amit Shah presides over the diamond jubilee celebration of NDDB



Key Points:

- ❖ The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Cooperation, Amit Shah, presided over the diamond jubilee celebration of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and also the birth anniversary of Tribhuvandas Patel in Anand, Gujarat, on 22 October 2024.
- ❖ Diamond Jubilee refers to the 60th anniversary of an organisation. Anand is the headquarters of the NDDB. Union Minister for Panchayati Raj, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh and other dignitaries were also present.
- ❖ Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of the Mother Dairy fruit and vegetable processing unit worth Rs 210 crore.
- ❖ He also launched two ghee brands- Badri Cow Ghee from Uttarakhand and the Gir Cow Ghee of Amul. Badri Ghee is made from the milk of the Himalayan breed cow, Badri and the Gir ghee is made from the milk of Gir cow found in Gir forest of Gujarat.

Amit Shah lauds the contribution of NDDB and Tribhuvandas Patel

- ❖ Amit Shah acknowledged the role of Tribhuvandas Patel as the founder of the cooperative movement in the dairy sector which led to the foundation of the National Dairy Development Board and the launch of Operation Flood.
- ❖ The success of the Operation Flood has made India the largest producer of the milk in the world since 1998.
- ❖ The success of the operation flood has increased the per capita availability of milk in the country from 40 kilograms per person per year in 1970 to 167 kilograms per person per year in 2023.

NDDB and Dairy Cooperative Movement

- ❖ India's first dairy cooperative, Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers Union Limited was formed in 1946 by farmers of Anand, Gujarat inspired by Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel.
- ❖ Tribhuvandas Patel was the founder Chairman of the Cooperatives, which later became famous as Amul dairy. Dr Verghese Kurien joined Amul in 1950, and under his professional leadership, Amul became a highly successful story

Foundation of NDDB and Dr Verghese Kurien Role

- ❖ During 1964 the then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri visited Amul dairy in Anand and impressed by the success of Amul, he decided that the Amul model of dairy cooperative will be replicated all over India, to make India self-sufficient in milk and dairy products.
- ❖ The Lal Bahadur Shastri government established the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in 1965, based on Amul's successful cooperative model.
- ❖ Dr Verghese Kurien was appointed the first Chairman of the NDDB.
- ❖ NDDB under Verghese Kurien launched Operation Flood, which has made India largest producer of milk in the world.
- ❖ The increase in the production of milk and dairy products is called as white revolution. Acknowledging the contribution of Dr Verghese Kurien in the white revolution, he is also called the father of white revolution in India or Milkman of India.
- ❖ 26 November, the birthday of Dr Kurien is observed as the National Milk Day in India.

Milk Production and India

- ❖ India is the world's largest producer of milk since 1998, surpassing the United States of America. India's contribution to world milk production is around 25%.

- ❖ The milk production in 2022-23 was 230.58 million tonnes.

Highest milk producing States during 2022-23 were;

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh (with a share of 15.72 % of total milk production),
- ❖ Rajasthan (14.44 %),
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh (8.73 %),
- ❖ Gujarat (7.49 %), and
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh (6.70 %)

PFRDA appoints Chitra Jayasimha as NPS Trust Board's Chairperson



Key Points:

- ❖ Pension regulator PFRDA has appointed Chitra Jayasimha as the Chairperson of the Board of National Pension System (NPS) Trust.
- ❖ She has been serving the NPS Trust Board as a Trustee since December 2020.
- ❖ Jayasimha has been appointed as Chairperson of NPS Trust in the place of erstwhile Chairman Venkata Rao Yadagani. Yadagani was designated to the position of NPS Trust Chairman on December 12, 2023.

About NPS Trust



- ❖ The NPS Trust is administered by a Board of Trustees. They are entrusted with the task to ensure that the NPS Trust works in the best interest of National Pension System (NPS) subscribers.

- ❖ NPS is a market-linked, voluntary, portable and flexible scheme that helps people save for retirement.

Adani Group Donates ₹ 100 Crore For Skills University In Telangana



Key Points:

- ❖ The Adani Foundation, which is the corporate social responsibility arm of the Adani Group, has donated ₹ 100 crore to the Telangana government for the establishment of a university that will help young people develop industry-specific skills.
- ❖ The Young India Skills University (YISU) has been established in Hyderabad under the Young India Skills University, Telangana (PublicPrivate Partnership) Act, 2024, to bridge the gap between industry requirements and academic offerings.

WHO certifies Egypt as malaria-free



Key Points:

- ❖ Egypt was officially declared 'malaria-free' by the World Health Organization (WHO). The country became the second country in the world, following Cabo Verde, to be officially declared malaria-free this year.
- ❖ It is also the fifth African nation to receive malaria-free certification from the WHO. With this announcement, a total of 44

countries and one territory have been certified as malaria-free by the WHO.

- ❖ Egypt is the third country within the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region to receive malaria-free certification, achieving this milestone in the region after 14 years.
- ❖ Morocco was declared malaria-free in 2010, following the United Arab Emirates, which received the certification in 2007.

Kerala launched Citizen Sentinel app to keep tabs on traffic rule violations



Key Points:

- ❖ Kerala 's Minister for Transport K.B. Ganesh Kumar has launched Citizen Sentinel, an app using which members of the public can upload photographs and videos of traffic rule violations in the NextGen Parivahan app.
- ❖ Photos and videos of up to 8 MB of any rule violation can be uploaded in the app, following which Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) officials will verify them.
- ❖ Subsequently, echallans would be sent to the vehicle owner. The app was developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and is part of the 100-day action plan of the Government of Kerala. The app is ready for use, while challans to violators will be sent shortly

India and Oman Conduct Joint Naval Drill 'Naseem Al Bahr' coast off Goa



Key Points:

- ❖ INS Trikand and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft participated in the Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise Naseem-AI-Bahr with the Royal Navy of Oman Vessel Al Seeb off Goa.
- ❖ The exercise was conducted in two phases: with harbour phase followed by the sea phase. As part of harbour activities, personnel from both Navies engaged in professional interactions, including Subject Matter Expert Exchanges and planning conferences.
- ❖ The exercise helped strengthen interoperability and enhanced understanding of each other's best practices.
- ❖ Exercise Malabar 2024 between India, Australia, Japan, and USA – Visakhapatnam
- ❖ 8th edition of Exercise KAZIND 2024 between India -Kazakhstan military in Auli, Uttrakhand.
- ❖ 7th edition of Exercise Eastern Bridge between Indian Air Force and Royal Oman Air Force – Air Force Base Masirah, Oman.
- ❖ 5th edition of Exercise Al NAJAH between Indian Army and Royal Army of Oman – Rabkoot Training Area in Salalah, Oman.
- ❖ Exercise Ulchi Freedom Shield between South Korea and USA
- ❖ Exercise Udara Shakti 2024 between Indian Air Force and Malaysia Air Force – Kuantan, Malaysia

Recent Exercise

- ❖ Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps of Southern Command is conducting 'Exercise SWAVLAMBAN SHAKTI' at Babina Field Firing Ranges near Jhansi.

