

Minimum Wage Rates

The central government has announced an increase in minimum wage rates by revising the Variable Dearness Allowance.

Key Points

- ❖ **Effective from:** The new wage rates will take effect from **1st October**.
- ❖ **Categorisation:** The minimum wage rates are categorized based on skill levels- unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled, and highly skilled, as well as by geographical areas A, B, and C.
- ❖ **Revised wage rates:** After the revision, minimum wage rates for workers in area 'A' in construction, sweeping, cleaning, and loading & unloading for unskilled work will be 783 rupees a day.

Category Of Worker	Area 'A'	Area 'B'	Area 'C'
Unskilled	500	457	452
Semi-Skilled/Unskilled Supervisory	546	502	462
Skilled/Clerical	593	546	501
Highly Skilled	656	611	546

*Effective from 01.Oct.2021

- For **semi-skilled workers**, the minimum wage will be 868 rupees a day, and for skilled, clerical, and watch & ward (without arms), the minimum wage will be 954 rupees a day.
- For **highly skilled workers** and watch & ward (with arms), the revised wage will be 1,035 rupees a day.

7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah

Till 26th September 2024, it has witnessed over nine crore sixty eight lakh events held nationwide.

What is Poshan Maah?

- ❖ **'Poshan Maah'** is a nationwide celebration that promotes nutrition awareness and drives action towards building a healthier India.
- ❖ This year, in its 7th phase, the **Poshan Maah campaign focuses on critical themes such as anemia prevention, growth monitoring**, effective service delivery through good governance and technology, **"Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi,"** and supplementary nutrition.
- ❖ **Since 2018, 6 Poshan Maah and Poshan Pakhwada have taken place throughout the country**, with the 7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah currently underway. Over 100 crore nutrition-centric sensitisation activities have been reported during these awareness campaigns under various themes.
- ❖ The 7th edition of Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2024, celebrated nationwide, brings renewed energy to the nutrition discourse. **It was started off in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**

Themes of Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2024

- ❖ **Anemia Mukht Bharat:** Focused on reducing anemia through a 6x6x6 strategy (six age groups, six interventions, and six institutional mechanisms), this initiative plays a pivotal role in improving maternal and child health outcomes nationwide.



- ❖ **Tech-Driven Solutions:** Leveraging digital platforms like POSHAN Tracker to monitor and improve real-time nutrition delivery for over 10 crore beneficiaries.
- ❖ **Intensified Jan Andolan:** Community-led activities promoting nutrition awareness in every household.
- ❖ **Complementary Feeding:** Around the age of 6 months, an infant's need for energy and nutrients starts to exceed that which is provided by breast milk. Complementary foods are necessary to meet those needs. An infant of this age is also developmentally ready for foods other than mother's milk. During the period of complementary feeding, children are at high risk of undernutrition. Sensitization of the community about the time of initiation, nutritional quality, quantity and frequency of complementary feeding will help to ensure the healthy growth of children.

Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Campaign

The Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Campaign has achieved nationwide success in afforestation, with Uttar Pradesh leading the way by planting around 26 crore saplings and Rajasthan surpassing its targets by 2.5 times through community engagement.

Key Points

- ❖ The initiative aims to create a greener and more sustainable future for generations to come through community involvement and government collaboration.
- ❖ **Launched:** It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who planted a peepal sapling in **New Delhi on World Environment Day (June 5), with the aim of planting 80 crore trees within this month.**



Way Forward

- ❖ The 'Ek ped Maa ke Naam' campaign is expected to foster a deeper connection between the community and the environment, promoting sustainable practices and enhancing the green cover of the state.

India- Indonesia 75 years of relations

India-Indonesia celebrate 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations

Key Points

- ❖ On 26th September 2024, the 8th India-Indonesia Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Jaideep Mazumdar.
- ❖ Both sides undertook a comprehensive review of bilateral ties, including political exchanges, defense and security, the maritime domain, trade and investment, healthcare, and connectivity. They also exchanged perspectives on regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- ❖ The two sides discussed the ongoing commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of India-Indonesia diplomatic relations and the various activities organized to mark this milestone.

9th AIIB Board of Governors Meet

Union Minister for Finance and Minister for Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman represented India at the 9th Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Board of Governors meeting.

Key Points

- ❖ **Held at:** The meeting was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- ❖ **Theme:** The theme of the 9th AIIB Board of Governors meeting was: Building Resilient Infrastructure for All.
- ❖ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has grown to 110 approved Members after its Board of Governors voted in support of the application of the Republic of Nauru during the Bank's 2024 Annual Meeting.

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank whose mission is Financing Infrastructure for Tomorrow in Asia and beyond—infrastructure with sustainability at its core. It began its operations in Beijing in 2016 and has since grown to 110 approved Members worldwide.

Make in India

On 25th September 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the completion of 10 Years of Make in India initiative.

Key Points

- ❖ **Launched on:** 'Make in India' is an initiative which was launched on **25th September, 2014** to facilitate investment, foster innovation, build best in class infrastructure, and make India a hub for manufacturing, design, and innovation.

- ❖ It is one of the unique '**Vocal for Local**' **initiatives** that promoted India's manufacturing domain to the world.
- ❖ The initiative has significant achievements and presently focuses on **27 sectors under Make in India 2.0**.
 - The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) coordinates action plans for 15 manufacturing sectors, while the Department of Commerce coordinates 12 service sector plans.

4 pillars of Make in India initiative:

- ❖ **New Processes:** To enhance the business environment, promote entrepreneurship and startups – 'ease of doing businesses' became a crucial factor.
- ❖ **New Infrastructure:** Development of industrial corridors, smart cities, integrating state-of-the-art technology and high-speed communication to create world-class infrastructure, improving intellectual property rights (IPR) infrastructure etc.
- ❖ **New Sectors:** Opening of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in sectors like Defence Production, Insurance, Medical Devices, Construction, and Railway infrastructure.
- ❖ **New Mindset:** In order to support industrial growth and innovation – the government embraced a role as a facilitator rather than a regulator. The Government partners with industry in the economic development of the country.

Key Initiatives to enable Make in India initiative

- ❖ **Production linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes:** The primary goals of the PLI Schemes are to attract substantial investments, incorporate advanced technology, and ensure operational efficiency. These schemes cover 14 key sectors aimed at fostering investment in cutting-edge technology and promoting global competitiveness.

- ❖ **PM GatiShakti:** It is a strategic initiative aimed at achieving Aatmanirbhar Bharat and a US \$5 trillion economy by 2025 through the creation of multimodal and last-mile connectivity infrastructure. PM Gati-Shakti is a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development. The approach is driven by 7 engines, namely: Railways, Roads, Ports, Waterways, Airports, Mass Transport and Logistics Infrastructure.
- ❖ **Semiconductor Ecosystem Development:** It encompasses four key schemes:
 - Modified Scheme for Setting Up Semiconductor Fabs in India
 - Modified Scheme for Setting Up Display Fabs in India
 - Modified Scheme for Setting Up Compound Semiconductors, Silicon Photonics, Sensors Fabs, and Discrete Semiconductors, along with Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging (ATMP) / OSAT Facilities in India
 - Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme
- ❖ **National Logistics Policy:** Introduced to complement the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan. It focusses on enhancing the soft infrastructure of India's logistics sector.
- ❖ **The National Industrial Corridor Development Programme:** Aims to create "Smart Cities" and advanced industrial hubs.
- ❖ **Startup India:** Several programs aimed at supporting entrepreneurs, building a robust startup ecosystem, and transforming India into a country of job creators instead of job seekers were rolled out.

- ❖ **Implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST):** As India's tax reforms, it is seen as crucial in the context of the Make in India initiative.
- ❖ **Unified Payments Interface:** For India's digital economy growth, it is seen as one of the key initiatives to enable ease of doing business.
- ❖ **Ease of Doing Business:** The efforts aim to simplify regulations, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and create a more business-friendly environment, significantly boosting investor confidence and supporting the objectives of the Make in India initiative.

Person In News

Shigeru Ishiba



He has been appointed as the **new PM of Japan**.

Places in News

Siachen

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu visited Siachen Base Camp in Ladakh and interacted with soldiers and officers posted at the Siachen Glacier.
- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu is the third president to visit Siachen Glacier after former President A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and former President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ❖ The **Siachen Glacier, located in the Karakoram Range**. It originates at the base of the main Indira Col at an altitude of 6,115 meters, and it descends to an altitude of 3,570 meters. It is 75 km (47 miles) long, which makes it the second longest nonpolar glacier in the world.

- ❖ It is the **world's highest military-occupied region** and has been protected by the Indian Army since April 1984 under **Operation Meghdoot**.

Indexes/Reports

Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024



- ❖ India retains **39th rank out of 133 economies** in the Global Innovation Index 2024 rankings published by the World Intellectual Property Organization.
- ❖ India has been on a rising trajectory, over the past several years in the Global Innovation Index (GII), from a rank of 81 in 2015 to 39 in 2024.
- ❖ India has also ranked first among the 10 economies in the Central and Southern Asia region.
- ❖ The GI is a reliable tool for governments across the world to assess the innovation-led social and economic changes in their respective countries.
- ❖ **Released by:** The Global Innovation Index is an annual ranking of countries by their capacity for, and success in, innovation, published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). It was started in 2007 by INSEAD and World Business, :203 a British magazine.

- ❖ India also ranked **1st among lower-middle-income economies**, and 4th in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Science & Technology (S&T) Cluster Ranking.
- ❖ Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, and Chennai are listed among the World's Top 100 S&T clusters, and India is 7th globally in intangible asset intensity.
- ❖ **Most innovative:** According to the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) GI 2024, Switzerland, Sweden, the US, Singapore, and the UK are the world's most innovative economies,
- ❖ **Fast climbers:** As per WIPO, China, Turkey, India, Vietnam, and the Philippines are the fastest climbers over the past decade.

Important Days/Dates

September 27

World Tourism Day



World Tourism Day is being celebrated on 27th of September every year highlighting tourism's role in connecting people and boosting economies.

The **theme for this year** is 'Tourism and Peace.' The day also aims to foster a more sustainable and equitable tourism industry for future generations.



Important News- Other States

New Delhi

In response to rising air pollution in Delhi, Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has launched the '**Dust-free Delhi**' initiative.

Important News- Worldwide

China

A **Smart Dragon-3** carrier rocket carrying eight satellites blasts off from the waters near the city of Haiyang in east China's Shandong Province, **Sept. 24, 2024**.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India**, Girish Chandra Murmu, has taken over the chairmanship of the **Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI)** for the term **2024-2027**.

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UPPSC
WALLAH

