

30th October 2024**Health Care Project**

Several projects related to the health sector were launched by the Prime Minister on the occasion of Dhanvantri Jayanti and 9th Ayurveda Day.

Key Points -

- ❖ **Place:** It was launched from New Delhi.
- ❖ **Cost:** The project is being launched at a cost of around Rs 12,850 crore.
- ❖ The scheme will expand the health coverage for all senior citizens aged 70 years and above under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- ❖ **Benefits:** This will help in providing health coverage to all senior citizens regardless of their income.

Major projects included:

Health institutions were inaugurated to boost healthcare infrastructure.

- ❖ Inaugurated the **second phase of India's first All India Institute of Ayurveda**, which includes a panchakarma hospital, an ayurvedic pharmacy for drug manufacturing, a sports medicine unit, a central library, an IT and start-up incubation centre and a 500-seat auditorium.
- ❖ Inaugurated three medical colleges at Mandsaur, Neemuch and Seoni in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ **Inaugurated facility and service expansion at various AIIMS** at Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh, Kalyani in West Bengal, Patna in Bihar, Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, Guwahati in Assam and New Delhi, which will also include a **Jan Aushadhi Kendra**.
- ❖ Inaugurated a **super specialty block** at the Government Medical College at Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh.

- ❖ Inaugurated a critical care block at Bargarh in Odisha.
- ❖ Laid the foundation stone of five nursing colleges at Shivpuri, Ratlam, Khandwa, Rajgarh and Mandsaur in Madhya Pradesh. Foundation stone of **21 Critical Care Blocks** was laid in Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan under Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).

Launch of drone services

- ❖ Drone services were launched in **11 tertiary healthcare institutions** to promote innovative use of drone technology that makes healthcare more accessible.
 - These include AIIMS Rishikesh in Uttarakhand, AIIMS Bibinagar in Telangana, AIIMS Guwahati in Assam, AIIMS Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, AIIMS Jodhpur in Rajasthan, AIIMS Patna in Bihar, AIIMS Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh, AIIMS Rae Bareli in Uttar Pradesh, AIIMS Raipur in Chhattisgarh, AIIMS Mangalagiri in Andhra Pradesh and RIMS Imphal in Manipur.

Prime Minister U-Win Portal

- ❖ Pradhan Mantri U-WIN Portal launched, will benefit pregnant women and infants by making the **vaccination process completely digital**.
- ❖ This will ensure timely delivery of life-saving vaccines against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases to pregnant women and children from birth to 16 years.

AYUSH Centre of Excellence

- ❖ **Four AYUSH Centres of Excellence were launched-**

- I. Centre of Excellence for Diabetes and Metabolic Disorders at Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
- II. Centre of Excellence for Sustainable AYUSH for start-up support in the field of Rasa Medicines and for addressing greenhouse gas emissions and advanced technological solutions at IIT Delhi.
- III. Centre of Excellence for Basic and Translational Research in Ayurveda at Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow.
- IV. Centre of Excellence on Ayurveda and Systems Medicine at JNU, New Delhi.

Country's Nature Testing Campaign

- ❖ The Prime Minister also launched the "Nationwide Nature Test Campaign" which aims to increase health awareness among citizens.

'Aadmya' and 'Akshar'

Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) launched two **Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs)** – 'Admya' and 'Akshar' – as part of a contract for eight FPVs for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

Key Points -

- ❖ Both these ships are made of more than 60 per cent **indigenous content**.
- ❖ **Cost:** Both these ships (FPVs) are part of a contract signed with GSL for eight such FPVs to be built at a cost of **Rs 473 crore**.
- ❖ **Purpose:** These ships have been designed and built to meet the specific requirements of the ICG under stringent dual class certification of the US Bureau of Shipping and the Indian Register of Shipping.
- ❖ **Benefits:** These advanced FPVs will help the ICG in protecting offshore assets and island territories with the primary role of security, surveillance, control and monitoring.

- ❖ Each FPV has a **length of 52 metres, width of 8 metres and a maximum speed of 27 knots**.
- ❖ It operates on a controllable **pitch propeller-based propulsion system** and has a displacement of 320 tonnes.

82nd Meeting of the Network Planning Group (NPG)

The 82nd meeting of the Network Planning Group (NPG) was held under the PM Gatishakti initiative.

Key Points -

- ❖ The meeting evaluated key infrastructure projects across India.
- ❖ **Chairman:** Chaired by Shri Rajiv Singh Thakur, Additional Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- ❖ **Participants:** Project proponents, representatives from Bhaskaracharya National Institute of Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) and nodal officers from the respective states participated.
- ❖ **Key Focus:** It focused on **enhancing multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency** in line with the PM Gatishakti National Master Plan (PMGS NMP).
- ❖ The NPG evaluated all seven projects based on the core principles of PM Gatishakti, which include **integrated development of multimodal infrastructure, last-mile connectivity to economic and social nodes, intermodal connectivity, and synchronized project implementation**.

Evaluated Projects The following are-

A. Projects of Ministry of Railways (MoR)

1. Jharsuguda to Sasan 3rd & 4th Line Railway Line, Odisha
2. Sambalpur to Jarapada Railway Line (3rd & 4th Line), Odisha
3. Tirupati-Katpadi Double Line, Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu
4. Two (02) projects of doubling of railway lines in the state of Jharkhand
 - Koderma - Arigada Railway Line
 - Shivpur-Kathautia Railway Line

B. Projects of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)

1. Prayagraj-Jaunpur-Azamgarh-Dohrighat-Gorakhpur Road, Uttar Pradesh
2. Ghazipur-Syed Raja Road Section, Uttar Pradesh

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Global Nature Conservation Index Ranking 2024

- ❖ A total of 180 countries were evaluated in the recently released **Global Nature Conservation Index**.
- ❖ Countries ranked on four key pillars
 - land Management
 - threats to biodiversity
 - capacity and governance
 - future trends
- ❖ A total of **180 countries** were evaluated in this index.
- ❖ **Best performing countries: Luxembourg** with its rich biodiversity leads the ranking with a score of 70.8 out of 100.
 - After this, Estonia (70.5), Denmark (69.4), Finland (66.9), United Kingdom (66.6), Zimbabwe (65.9), Australia (65.8) and Switzerland (64.7).

- ❖ **Best performing countries:** Kiribati (41.2), Turkey (41.5), Iraq (43.3), Micronesia (43.8), India (45.5), Togo (45.8), Bahrain (45.9), Bangladesh (46.14), Lebanon (46.15), Marshall Islands (46.6) Etcetera.
- ❖ According to data from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the average size of monitored global wildlife populations has fallen by a **devastating 73% in just 50 years**.
- ❖ **Bhutan**, a global biodiversity hotspot, is the only country in Asia to perform remarkably, ranking 15th globally with a score of 63.1. Bhutan protects more than 51% of its land, the highest percentage in Asia.

Situation in India:

- ❖ India **ranks 179th** in nature conservation efforts with a dismal score of 45.5.
- ❖ India is a highly diverse country with 7-8% of the world's species.
- ❖ **7.5% of India's terrestrial area**, 40% of marine species and 65% of terrestrial species live in protected areas, but habitat loss and fragmentation pose significant threats to biodiversity.

Person In News- Appointment

Ashok Chandra



The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recently recommended Ashok Chandra for the post of Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Punjab National Bank (PNB).

The term of Atul Kumar Goel, the current MD and CEO of PNB, is going to complete on December 31, 2024.

Ashok Chandra is currently the Executive Director (ED) at Canara Bank.

Person In News - Awards

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar



Recently, the **South Pacific country Fiji** has conferred its highest civilian honor on global spiritual guru and humanitarian leader **Sri Sri Ravishankar** for his tireless contribution to uplifting the human spirit and bringing diverse communities together in peace and harmony.

His Excellency Ratu William M. Katoniwere, President of the Republic of Fiji conferred the title of '**Honorary Officer of Fiji**' on Sri Sri Ravishankar.

Fiji has become the **sixth country in the world** to confer the highest civilian award on Sri Sri Ravishankar.

Person In News- Obituary

Justice KS Puttaswamy



Justice KS Puttaswamy, **former judge of the Karnataka High Court**, passed away.

He was **98 years old**.

Justice Puttaswamy was the main petitioner, who in 2012 had challenged the constitutional validity of the Aadhaar scheme in the Supreme Court, saying it was a violation of the right to privacy. The Aadhaar scheme later got legislative approval.

He played an important role in getting the **Right to Privacy (Article 21)** declared as a fundamental right by the Supreme Court in 2017.

Important News- Other States

Chhattisgarh

❖ The Chhattisgarh government has announced an increase in OBC **reservation in panchayat and urban body elections**.

❖ The one-time limit of reservation in proportion to OBC population in local bodies has been increased **from 25% to a maximum of 50%**.

❖ This decision is based on the recommendations of the State Backward Classes Welfare Commission, which ensures reservation in proportion to the population of the OBC community.

Kerala

❖ In a landmark judgment, the Kerala High Court has affirmed that a mother's right to breastfeed and a child's right to breastfeed are integral parts of the right to life, protected under **Article 21 of the Indian Constitution**.

❖ The judgment came after the Court set aside a Child Welfare Committee (CWC) order that handed over the custody of a breastfed infant to her father under controversial circumstances.

Important Days/Dates

28 October

International Animation Day



- ❖ International Animation Day is celebrated every year on October 28 to honor the power of animation to unite and inspire.
- ❖ The day was established in 2002 by the **International Animated Film Association (ASIFA)** to celebrate the impact of animation on entertainment and education.
- ❖ French cartoonist and animator, Émile Cohl, considered the '**father of animated films**', created one of the first fully animated films 'Fantasmagorie' in 1908.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ The Supreme Court has set aside the order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court which had accepted Aadhaar card to determine the age of a road accident victim for awarding compensation.
 - A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Ujjwal Bhuyan said that under Section 94 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the **age of the deceased should be determined from the date of birth mentioned in the school leaving certificate.**

