

30 October 2024

PM Modi & Spanish PM Pedro inaugurate Tata's C-295 aircraft factory



Key Points:

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the visiting Prime Minister of Spain, Pedro Sanchez, jointly inaugurated the Tata Advanced Systems Ltd's (TASL) Tata Aircraft Complex at Vadodara, Gujarat, on 28 October 2024.
- ❖ The complex is the final assembly line plant of the C-295 military transport aircraft that India bought from Airbus.
- ❖ The Spanish Prime Minister Sanchez is on a threeday official visit to India from 27 – 29 October 2024.
- ❖ This is Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's first visit to India, and after 18 years, a Spanish Prime Minister has been visiting India.



India's first private-sector military transport complex

- ❖ The Vadododra complex of Tata Advanced Systems Limited is India's first private-sector assembly line for military aircraft. Until now, military aircraft have been manufactured by the public-sector company Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
- ❖ The Tata Advanced Systems Limited will produce 40 C- 295 aircraft in this factory. The factory will handle all work related to aircraft manufacturing, assembly, testing, delivery, and maintenance.

- ❖ Tata Advanced Systems entered into an agreement with Airbus Defence and Space, Spain, to manufacture and assemble 40 C-295 medium-lift tactical transport aircraft in the country.
- ❖ These aircraft will be delivered to the Indian Air Force, and the Tata Advanced system will provide maintenance, repair and operation(MRO) support to the 56 aircraft bought by the Indian Air Force

56 C-295 transport plane agreement with Spain

- ❖ On 24 September 2021, the Indian government and Airbus Defence and Space, Spain, signed an agreement to procure 56 C-295 medium-lift tactical transport aircraft for the Indian Air Force.
- ❖ The total cost of the deal was Rs 21,935 crore. Under the agreement,16 aircraft were to be delivered from Spain, while the 40 aircraft were to be assembled in India.
- ❖ Airbus entered into an agreement with Tata Advance System Limited to assemble the aircraft in India, and a factory has been established in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- ❖ The foundation stone of Tata's Vadodara factory was laid down by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in October 2022.



IAF to be the largest operator of C-295 Fleet

- ❖ When all 56 aircraft are delivered to the Indian Air Force, it will become the largest operator of C-295 aircraft in the world.
- ❖ So far, Airbus has delivered six C-295 aircraft to India, and the seventh is to be delivered by 2024.
- ❖ Airbus is expected to deliver the rest of the aircraft by August 2025.
- ❖ The first C-295 aircraft from the Tata factory is expected to be rolled out in September 2026, and all 40 aircraft are expected to be delivered to the Indian Air Force by August 2031.

India Spain to Observe 2026 as Year of Culture, Tourism and AI



Key Points:

- ❖ India and Spain have agreed to observe 2026 as the Year of Culture, Tourism, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ❖ This and other agreements were reached between India and Spain to strengthen bilateral ties during the visit of Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez to India.
- ❖ Pedro Sanchez was on his first official visit to India after becoming Spain's Prime Minister in 2018.
- ❖ He is also the first Spanish Prime Minister to visit India in the last 18 years.
- ❖ In 2006, Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero visited India. During his three-day visit to India from 27 to 29 October 2024, the Spanish Prime Minister visited Vadodara in Gujarat and Mumbai in Maharashtra.

Agreement Signed between India and Spain

- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed to further cooperation in Rail Transport.
- ❖ An agreement was signed for Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters.
- ❖ Cultural exchange programmes between the two countries for 2024-2028.
- ❖ Spain will establish a Consulate in Bengaluru, and India will operationalise its Consulate in Barcelona, Spain.
- ❖ Setting up of a Fast Track mechanism in both countries to facilitate Indian investment in Spain and Spanish

investment in India. The Fast Track mechanism will be set up in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Union Ministry of Commerce. In Spain, it will be in the Directorate General of International Trade and Investment, Under the Spanish Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business.

- ❖ A Joint Commission will be set up under the Audio Visual Co-Production Agreement.
- ❖ The year 2026 is to be observed as the India-Spain Year of Culture, Tourism and AI

Pedro Sanchez's Visit to Mumbai

- ❖ The Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez visited Mumbai on 29 October 2024 after his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Vadodara.
- ❖ He addressed the India-Spain Business Summit meeting along with the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari.
- ❖ The Business Summit was organised by the DPIIT, Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the Spanish trade and investment body, ICEX.
- ❖ Pedro Sanchez also addressed a CEO Forum held in Mumbai. The CEO Forum was organised by DPIIT and FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries) along with the Chamber of Commerce of Spain.
- ❖ He also addressed the fourth India-Spain Forum, jointly organised by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and the Spain-India Council Foundation.



About Spain

- ❖ Spain is a Western European country located on the Iberian peninsula.
- ❖ It is a member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation(NATO).
- ❖ It is a constitutional monarchy, and the King is the head of the State.
- ❖ The Prime Minister is the head of the government.
- ❖ Capital: Madrid
- ❖ Currency: Euro
- ❖ King: Felipe VI
- ❖ Prime Minister: Pedro Sanchez

NTPC and Indian Army Join Hands for Round-the-Clock Power Supply using Green Hydrogen



Key Points:

- ❖ NTPC has partnered with the Indian Army to establish a Solar Hydrogen-based Microgrid at Chushul, Ladakh.
- ❖ This significant step will provide a stable power supply using Green Hydrogen in off-grid Army locations.
- ❖ NTPC has designed this innovative Solar Hydrogen-based microgrid system to operate independently, using hydrogen as an energy storage medium to supply 200kW of power round-the-clock throughout the year.
- ❖ NTPC will maintain the project for 25 years, aiming to support Indian soldiers stationed in these strategically significant tough terrains and challenging climate.
- ❖ NTPC is committed to achieving 60GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032 and becoming a major player in green hydrogen technology and energy storage domain.

Manika Batra becomes first Indian to reach Quarterfinals of the World Table Tennis Champions event



Key Points:

- ❖ Manika Batra has made table tennis history as she became the first Indian to qualify for quarter-finals at a WTT Champions event.
- ❖ Indian paddler Manika yesterday defeated Bernadette Szocs of Romania 3-1 in the round of 16 in Montpellier, France.
- ❖ Manika had also beaten the Romanian at the 2024 Paris Olympics earlier this year with a scoreline of 3-2.
- ❖ She had become the first table tennis player from India to reach the last 16 in the singles table tennis competition in an Olympics. Batra, a multiple Commonwealth Games medallist.

IAS Vipin Kumar appointed Chairman of the Airport Authority of India



Key Points:

- ❖ 1996 Bihar cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Vipin Kumar took over as the Chairman of the Airport Authority of India on 28 October 2024.
- ❖ He succeeded M Suresh, who was appointed interim Chairman by the government of India after the former Chairman, IAS officer Sanjeev Kumar, was promoted.

About Chairman Vipin Kumar

- ❖ Vipin Kumar has held several important posts in the Bihar administration.
- ❖ He served as District Magistrate in several districts of the state.
- ❖ Among his notable appointments were being the Chairman of the Bihar Bridge Construction Corporation and Managing Director of the Bihar Milk Cooperative Federations.
- ❖ He was also appointed Director of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Bihar.
- ❖ Before taking over the post of the Chairman of the Airport Authority of India, Vipin Kumar Additional Secretary in the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, government of India.
- ❖ He was responsible for implementing key government of India schemes like the Samagra Shiksha Scheme, National Education Policy-2020, and the PM-SHRI Schemes.

Airport Authority of India

- ❖ The Airport Authority of India is a statutory body created under the provisions of the Airport Authority of India Act 1994.
- ❖ It came into existence on 1 April 1995 after the merger of the National Airports Authority and the International Airports Authority of India.
- ❖ In February 2009, the government of India granted the Airport Authority of India a Mini Ratna -Category 1 Central Public Sector Enterprise status.
- ❖ The Airport Authority of India comes under the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Airport Authority of India is a nodal body for creating, upgrading, maintaining, and managing civil aviation infrastructure in the country's ground and airspace.
- ❖ The Airport Authority of India currently manages 133 airports. Of these, 110 are operational, while 23 are non-operational. Out of the 110 operational airports, 35 airports are International airports.

Deepak Agarwal Appointed as Regular MD of NAFED



Key Points:

- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Deepak Agarwal as the new Managing Director (MD) of the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) for a five-year term.
- ❖ Agarwal is a 2000-batch IAS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre. Earlier, on September 30, the ACC had appointed Pankaj Kumar Bansal, the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, to hold the post of MD, NAFED temporarily.
- ❖ This provisional assignment was set for either a period of three months or until a regular MD appointment could be made.

About NAFED

- ❖ NAFED, established in 1958, is a crucial player in India's agricultural sector, functioning as a cooperative marketing organization.
- ❖ It aims to promote the welfare of Indian farmers by ensuring fair prices for their produce and providing market linkage.
- ❖ The organization operates under the guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and has a mandate to support price stabilization, especially for key agricultural commodities.

Afghanistan A defeats Sri Lanka A to lift the 2024 Emerging Asia Cup



Key Points:

- ❖ The Afghanistan A men’s cricket team defeated the Sri Lankan A side by seven wickets to win the ACC Men’s T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2024.
- ❖ The Asian Cricket Council organized the 6th ACC Men’s Emerging Teams Asia Cup at Al Almerat, Oman.
- ❖ It was for the first time that the ACC Men’s Emerging Teams Asia Cup was held in T20 format.
- ❖ It was the first title win for Afghanistan’s A team in the ACC Men’s Emerging Teams Asia Cup.
- ❖ Afghanistan team made it to the final by defeating India A in the semi-final, while Sri Lanka A team defeated Pakistan Shaheens in the other semifinal.
- ❖ The regular test players of India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan do not participate in the ACC Emerging Team Asia Cup tournament. Player of the match – Allah Mohammad Ghazanfar (Afghanistan) Player of the series – Sediqullah Atal (Afghanistan)

29 October – World Stroke Day



Key Points:

- ❖ World Stroke Day is observed annually on October 29 to raise awareness about strokes, their causes, and the importance of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.

- ❖ It was established by the World Stroke Organisation to draw attention to the high prevalence and impact of strokes worldwide, as well as to educate people about risk factors and preventive measures.

Theme 2024 – #GreaterThanStroke

Bharti Airtel Announces Shashwat Sharma as New CEO



Key Points:

- ❖ Bharti Airtel has appointed Shashwat Sharma as the new MD and CEO effective January 1, 2026, as part of a structured succession plan.
- ❖ He will serve as CEO designate for 14 months, overseeing the consumer business while Gopal Vittal transitions to Executive Vice Chairman after 12 years in leadership.
- ❖ In a significant restructuring move, Bharti Airtel has appointed Shashwat Sharma as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective January 1, 2026.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Honoured with Fiji’s Highest Civilian Award



Key Points:

- ❖ Sri Sri Ravi Shankar received Fiji's highest civilian award, the "Honourary Officer of the Order of Fiji" for his global work in fostering peace and unity through The Art of Living Foundation.

- ❖ During his visit he discussed ways to support Fiji's youth and mental health initiatives with local leader.
- ❖ The Republic of Fiji has bestowed its highest civilian award, the "Honourary Officer of the Order of Fiji," on Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.
- ❖ This recognition, presented by Fiji's President, Ratu Wiliame M. Katonivere, acknowledges Sri Sri's contributions to promoting peace, unity, and uplifting communities globally.
- ❖ Sri Sri expressed his gratitude on social media, saying, "Honoured to receive Fiji's highest civilian award."

Global Humanitarian Impact

- ❖ Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of The Art of Living Foundation, has also received top civilian honors from five other countries, recognizing his global humanitarian impact. Established in 1981, The Art of Living focuses on initiatives in mental health, education, environment, and empowerment and now operates in over 180 countries.

Engagement with Fijian Leaders

- ❖ During his Fiji visit, Sri Sri met with Deputy Prime Minister Viliame Gavoka and UN Resident Coordinator Dirk Wagener.
- ❖ Discussions included ways The Art of Living could support Fiji's progress in areas like youth empowerment and mental health. The Indian High Commissioner to Fiji, P.S. Karthigeyan, also hosted a reception where Sri Sri interacted with several dignitaries.

Chiranjeevi Honored with ANR Award by Amitabh Bachchan



Key Points:

- ❖ Amitabh Bachchan recently honored renowned Telugu film star Chiranjeevi at the ANR National Awards 2024, an event organized by the Akkineni International Foundation.
- ❖ This prestigious award recognizes artists for their lifetime contributions to cinema. Amitabh Bachchan recently honored renowned Telugu film star Chiranjeevi at the ANR National Awards 2024, an event organized by the Akkineni International Foundation.
- ❖ This prestigious award recognizes artists for their lifetime contributions to cinema. During the ceremony, Bachchan praised Chiranjeevi's remarkable impact on the film industry and expressed his heartfelt gratitude towards him and the contributions of the Telugu film industry to Indian cinema.
- ❖ Amitabh Bachchan presented the ANR National Award to Telugu film star Chiranjeevi at a ceremony organized by the Akkineni International Foundation, recognizing artists for their lifetime contributions to cinema

Significance of the Award

- ❖ The ANR National Awards celebrate the legacy of late Akkineni Nageswara Rao, a renowned actor-producer in Telugu cinema, and aim to honor those who have made significant impacts in the film industry.

Rodri and Aitana Bonmati of Spain bags 2024 Ballon d'Or football award



Key Points:

- ❖ Rodri and Aitana Bonmati of Spain won football's most prestigious Ballon d'Or award for the best male and female footballer, respectively.

- ❖ The 2024 Ballon d'Or award winners were announced at a ceremony held at the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris, France, on 28 October 2024.
- ❖ The Ballon d'Or, or the Golden Ball Award, is considered one of the most prestigious awards in football and has been awarded since 1956, except in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

First award for Rodri and the second consecutive for Aitana Bonmati

- ❖ Spanish and Manchester City midfielder Rodri won his first Ballon d'Or award. He beat England's Jude Bellingham and Brazil's Vinícius Junior for the top individual honour in men's football.
- ❖ Rodri had a terrific 2024 football season. He played a crucial role in Manchester City's fourth consecutive Premier League title and was part of the Spanish national side that won the 2024 Euro Cup.
- ❖ Rodri is the second Spanish footballer to win the Ballon d'Or award after Luis Suarez in 1960. ▪ Barcelona and Spanish women's football player Aitana Bonmati won her second consecutive Ballon d'Or Féminin award, having won it in 2023.
- ❖ In 2024, Aitana Bomatti helped her club side Barcelona win Liga F, the Champions League, the Spanish Super Cup, and the Copa de la Reina titles.
- ❖ Aitana Bonmati beat fellow Barcelona teammates Caroline Graham Hansen and Salma Paralluelo to win the award.

2024 award winners Full List

- ❖ Men's Ballon d'Or: Rodri of Spain (Manchester City Club and Spain)
- ❖ Women's Ballon d'Or - Aitana Bonmatí of Spain (Barcelona Club and Spain)
- ❖ Gerd Müller Trophy (Top scorer)- Harry Kane of England (Bayern Munich Club and England) and Kylian Mbappé of France (PSG/Real Madrid Club and France).

- ❖ Yashin Trophy (Best Goalkeeper)- Emiliano Martínez of Argentina (Aston Villa Club and Argentina)
- ❖ Kopa Trophy (Best Player Under-21)- Lamine Yamal of Spain (Barcelona Club and Spain)

About the Ballon d'Or Award

- ❖ The Ballon d'Or award was instituted by the French news magazine France Football.
- ❖ It has been awarded since 1956, and Stanley Matthews of England was the first player to receive it.
- ❖ Initially, the award was for a European player, but in 1995, it was open to all football players worldwide.
- ❖ The Ballon d'Or award for the best women footballer was instituted in 2018, and it is known as Ballon d'Or Féminin.
- ❖ Norway's Ada Hegerberg was the first Ballon d'Or Féminin award winner.
- ❖ Argentinian Player Lionel Messi holds the record for most Ballon d'Or awards. He has won it eight times: 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2019, 2021, and 2023.
- ❖ Football journalists select the winner of the Ballon d'Or award. For the men's award, one journalist from each of the top 100-ranked FIFA countries votes, while for the women, one journalist from each of the top 50-ranked football countries votes.

Indian donated Solar Roof Top lightens Sri Lankan religious places



Key Points:

- ❖ India has donated solar rooftop systems to Sri Lanka, which will be used to lighten up the country's religious locations.

- ❖ The handing-over ceremony took place at four religious locations in Sri Lanka: Hokandara Temple, Sri Aanjaneyar Temple, St. Anthony's Church, and Mutwal Jumma Mosque.
- ❖ The ceremony was attended by the officials of the Indian High Commission in Colombo, the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB), and the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority.

Indian Project to install Solar Rooftop across 5000 religious sites in Sri Lanka

- ❖ Under a \$17 million grant from the government of India, rooftop solar plants are being built at 5,000 religious sites in 25 districts of Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Solar rooftops are being installed in Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, and Christian places of worship. ▪ The project is expected to be completed by 2025, and the government of India will provide five-year maintenance facilities for the installed rooftop solar plants.
- ❖ The Project is expected to add 25 MW of solar capacity, generating approximately 37 million units annually.
- ❖ It is expected to reduce energy costs for these institutions while bolstering Sri Lanka's transition to clean energy.

1st 'Pravasi Parichay' festival held in Saudi Arabia by MEA



Key Points:

- ❖ The first Pravasi Parichay festival was held in Saudi Arabia to foster unity amongst the Indian diaspora in Saudi Arabia while celebrating India's diverse cultural heritage.
- ❖ The Pravasi Parichay festival was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs Diaspora Engagement Division in partnership with the local Indian association in Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ Over 450 performers from 14 Indian states performed at the Pravasi Parichay festival.
- ❖ Every participating state set up its own pavilion displaying its distinct culture, art, dance, cuisine, and traditions.
- ❖ Various Indian dance forms, such as Punjab's Bhangra, Kerala's Mohiniyattam, Odissi from Odisha, Yakshagana from Karnataka, Gujarat's Garba, and Maharashtra's Lavani dance, were performed.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's traditional Parai and Bharatnatyam dance for Andhra Pradesh's dramatic Mahishasur Mardini dance drama and Telangana's vibrant Marfa and Lambada tribal dances captivated the audience.

