

24<sup>th</sup> October 2024

## Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor

India and Pakistan have agreed to extend the validity of the Agreement on Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor for a further period of five years.

### Key Points

- ❖ The Agreement had been signed on **24th of October in 2019** and was **valid for a period of five years**.
- ❖ It was to facilitate the visit of pilgrims from India to **Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, Narowal, Pakistan through the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor**.
- ❖ The extension of the validity of this agreement will ensure uninterrupted operation of the Corridor for use by pilgrims from India to visit the holy gurdwara in Pakistan.
- ❖ Pakistan levies a fee of 20 dollars per pilgrim per visit, India has once again urged Pakistan to not levy any fee or charges on the pilgrims.

## Sri Kartarpur Sahib

- ❖ Sri Kartarpur Sahib is a holy shrine for the **Sikh community living in India and Pakistan**.
- ❖ The shrine is located at village Kartarpur, on the west bank of **river Ravi where Sri Guru Nanak Dev spent the last 18 years of his life**.
- ❖ Gurdwara Dera Baba Nanak is about 1 km from the Indo-Pakistan border.
- ❖ Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib falls in district Narowal of Pakistan, about 4.5 km from the International border.

- ❖ The Indian part of Dera Baba Nanak - Sri Kartarpur Sahib corridor involves a 4.1 km long four-lane highway from Dera Baba Nanak to the International border.

## Weather Forecasts at the Gram Panchayat Level

On 24th October 2024, the Panchayati Raj Minister launched 'Weather Forecasts at the Gram Panchayat Level' in Delhi.

### Key Points

- ❖ It is an **initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with the India Meteorological Department**.
- ❖ It is the landmark and transformative initiative to provide Gram Panchayats with **five-days daily weather forecasting and provision** to check hourly weather forecasts.
- ❖ This initiative is **aimed at empowering rural communities** and enhancing disaster preparedness at the grassroots.
- ❖ It will directly benefit farmers and villagers across the country.
- ❖ This is the **first time that localized weather forecasts will be available at the Gram Panchayat level**, supported by IMD's expanded sensor coverage.
- ❖ The forecasts will be disseminated through the Ministry's digital platforms: e-GramSwaraj and Meri Panchayat app.

## Pravasi Parichay

The 2024 edition of the Embassy's flagship diaspora engagement event, **Pravasi Parichay**, was inaugurated by Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan at the Embassy Auditorium in Riyadh.

### Key Points

- ❖ Pravasi Parichay was **launched last year (2023)**.
- ❖ It was **launched by the Embassy of India in partnership with Indian diaspora associations in Saudi Arabia and the Diaspora Engagement Division of the Ministry of External Affairs**.,
- ❖ It has quickly become a significant cultural celebration.
- ❖ The first edition was held in October and November of 2023.

### Ashfaqulla Khan

On 22nd Oct 2024, the nation is paying tribute to freedom fighter and the brave warrior of 'Kakori Train Action', Ashfaqulla Khan on his birth anniversary

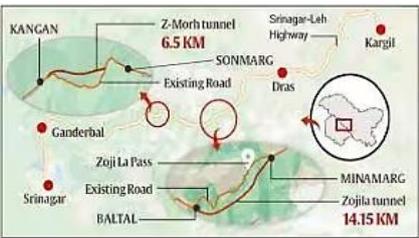
#### Key Points

- ❖ Ashfaqulla Khan was **born in 1900 at Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh**.
- ❖ He was a freedom fighter who actively fought against the British forces.
- ❖ Khan was a part of **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)** with the aim of winning freedom for the country through an armed revolution.
- ❖ He was hanged on **19th December, 1927 at the Faizabad Jail**.

### Person In News- Worldwide

<b>Luong Cuong</b>	<p>He has been elected as the new <b>President of Vietnam</b>.</p> <p>Vietnam is located on the <b>Indochinese Peninsula</b>. The country <b>shares borders with three countries: Cambodia (southwest), China (north), and Laos (northwest)</b>.</p>	
<b>Justice Yahya Afridi</b>	<p>He has been appointed as the <b>chief justice of Pakistan</b>. He is the 30th Chief Justice of the country.</p>	

### Places In News

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #0070C0;">Z-Morh tunnel</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The <b>Z-Morh tunnel is a 6.4-kilometer tunnel</b> connecting the Sonamarg health resort with Kangan town in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.</li> <li>❖ The tunnel has been constructed near Gagangir village ahead of Sonamarg.</li> <li>❖ The tunnel will <b>provide all-weather connectivity to Sonamarg</b>, a famous tourist destination on the Srinagar-Leh highway.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The tunnel has acquired <b>its name for the Z-shaped road stretch at the place where the tunnel is being constructed.</b></li> <li>❖ The tunnel project was originally conceived by the Border Roads Organisation in 2012. The Border Roads Organisation awarded the construction contract to Tunnelway Ltd. However, the project was later taken over by the National Highways &amp; Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).</li> </ul>
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**Species in News**

<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>Coelogyne tripurensis</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ A new species of <b>orchid</b> named Coelogyne tripurensis was discovered in <b>Jampui Hills, in Tripura's North District.</b></li> <li>❖ Jampui Hills is situated about 200 km away from Agartala city and is the highest hill range in the state bordering Mizoram.</li> <li>❖ This permanent seat of eternal spring is situated at an altitude of 3000' above sea level.</li> </ul>
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**Important News- Other States**

<b>Odisha</b>	<p>Odisha will host the <b>18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas</b> in Bhubaneswar from the 8th to the 10th of January, 2025. The event will be jointly organised by the Odisha government and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).</p> <p>India celebrates 9th January every two years as the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas ("<b>Non-Resident Indians Day</b>"). The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, from South Africa in 1915.</p>
	<p><b>The Odisha</b> government announced <b>women</b> in the state <b>government</b> and private sector will receive a day's paid <b>menstrual leave</b>. This can be taken on the first or second day of their cycle</p>
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	<p>The <b>Indian Institute of Technology, Madras</b> is set to launch its <b>first international flagship centre in Dubai</b> for research, innovation, and entrepreneurship by early 2025.</p>

### Important News- Worldwide

<b>Switzerland</b>	Switzerland has signed a declaration to join the <b>European Sky Shield Initiative</b> . It is a German-led project to build and develop a ground-based integrated European air defence system. The initiative was launched in <b>August 2022 by German chancellor Olaf Scholz</b> .
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### Sports

#### 24th National Para-Swimming Championship

The **24th National Para-Swimming Championship concluded in Panaji, Goa.**

- ❖ **Karnataka secured the overall title** with an impressive 392 points at the 24th National Para-Swimming Championships.
- ❖ Maharashtra finished second with 378 points, while Rajasthan took the third spot with 248 points.
- ❖ Mohammed Aasim from Kerala emerged as the Men's Senior champion.
- ❖ Ravi Karthik from Andhra Pradesh won the Men's Junior title.
- ❖ Revansh from Haryana triumphed in the Men's Sub-Junior category.
- ❖ Sharanya from Karnataka won the Women's Senior title.

### Miscellaneous

- ❖ On 23rd October 2024, the Centre rolled out the **second phase sale of Bharat Brand Chana Dal through National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF)** and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) Vans in New Delhi.

- Bharat Chana Dal will be available at 70 rupees per kilogram and Chana at 58 rupees per Kg in the Kendriya Bhandars, Mobile vans, NAFED, e-commerce platforms and Big chain retails. Bharat moong dal is priced at 107 rupees per kg and Masoor Dal at 89 Per kg.
- ❖ India is hosting the **16th edition of the Women's Indian Open (Golf) in Gurugram, Haryana.**
- ❖ India launched its fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), S4\*, at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam.
  - The S4\* features advanced capabilities, including the K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) with a 3,500 km range.

