

Economy

10th India Maize Summit

Why in the news?

The 10th India Maize Summit was organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi.

- ❖ **Focus of the summit:** It focussed on the rising demand for maize and strategies to boost production in the future.

Highlights of the summit:

- ❖ The FICCI-YES BANK report titled 'The Indian Maize Sector - Trends, Challenges & Imperatives for Sustainable Growth' was released.
 - According to the report, global maize production reached 1.17 billion tons in 2022, with India positioned as the fifth-largest producer.

- ❖ Bihar's Minister of Agriculture & Health, Mangal Pandey, addressed the summit, emphasizing the state government's commitment to supporting the agricultural sector.

- Bihar's contribution in the country's maize production is about 11 percent.
- After Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Maharashtra, Bihar is the fifth-largest maize-producing state in the country.
- Purnia, Katihar, Bhagalpur, Madhepura, Saharsa, Khagaria and Samastipur have developed as major areas of maize production.
- ❖ A separate Bihar Agriculture Investment Promotion Policy has been introduced to encourage investment in the field of agriculture.
 - Under this, one can avail capital subsidy of up to 25 percent in the field of seed processing to food processing.
 - Maize producing farmers are also benefiting from the state government's Ethanol Promotion Policy, 2021.



Environment And Geography

India's first CO₂-to-methanol pilot plant

Why in the news?

India's first CO₂-to-methanol pilot plant will be established in Pune, Maharashtra.

- ❖ Abhay Karandikar, Secretary to the Department of Science and Technology (DST), laid the foundation stone at Thermax Limited in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ❖ **Objective:** It aims to advance indigenous carbon capture and utilization (CCU) capabilities.

About the plant:

- ❖ It has a capacity of 1.4 tons per day, and is being developed under a public-private partnership (PPP) between the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and Pune-based engineering company Thermax (NSE: THERMAX).

- ❖ It is funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) at a cost of \$3.7 million (₹31 crore)

Defence And Security

ABHED LightWeight Bullet Proof Jackets

Why in the news?

DRDO, along with researchers of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has developed LightWeight Bullet Proof Jackets.

- ❖ It has been named as ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat).
- ❖ The jackets have been developed at the DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) at IIT, Delhi.

About the Jacket:

- ❖ These jackets have been created from polymers and indigenous boron carbide ceramic material.
- ❖ The design configuration is based on characterisation of various materials at high strain rate followed by appropriate modeling and simulation in collaboration with DRDO.



Miscellaneous

10th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association India Region Conference

Why in the news?

The Indian Parliament hosted the two-day 10th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Conference in New Delhi.

- ❖ This is the second occasion the CPA India Region Conference is being held in New Delhi.
- ❖ **Chairperson:** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who is also the Chairperson of the CPA India Region.
- ❖ **Theme:** The Role of Legislative Bodies in the Attainment of Sustainable and Inclusive Development.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region

- ❖ It was created in 2004 from the erstwhile CPA Asia Region as one of the nine regions of the CPA.
- ❖ Currently, it has 31 Member Branches, including the Parliament of India and 30 State and Union Territories Legislatures.

Awards and Honors

2024 @UN Inter-Agency Task Force Award

Why in the news?

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has been awarded with the prestigious 2024 @UN Inter-Agency Task Force Award.

- ❖ It has been awarded for achievements in advancing multi-sectoral action on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and mental health among others.
- ❖ **Significance:**
 - It highlights ICMR's innovative work in assistive technology, creating accessible, affordable and sustainable solutions that enhance the quality of life for individuals with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health challenges across India.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi

- ❖ It is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, and is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world.
- ❖ **History:** IRFA (Indian Research Fund Association) was redesignated as the Indian Council of Medical Research (with Dr. C.G. Pandit as its first Director).
- ❖ It is funded by the Government of India through the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Persons In News

Next Vice Air Chief: S.P Dharkar

Why in the news?

Air Marshal SP Dharkar has been appointed as the next Vice Chief of Air Staff.

- ❖ He will succeed Air Marshal AP Singh who will assume his role as the 28th Chief of Air Staff from 30th September onwards.

About S.P Dharkar:



- ❖ He is an alumnus of the Rashtriya Indian Military College in Dehradun, the National Defence Academy in Pune, the Defence Services Staff College in Wellington, and the Air War College in the United States.
- ❖ He was commissioned in June 1985 and has earned credentials as a Qualified Flying Instructor, Fighter Strike Leader, Instrument Rating Instructor and Examiner, and Air Force Examiner.

Important Days/ Dates

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Why in the news?

It is observed annually on September 26.



- ❖ **Objective:** This day aims to increase global awareness about the catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences of nuclear warfare and promote collective efforts toward achieving a world free of nuclear arms
- ❖ **Theme:** Forging a path towards human security, justice, and peace.
- ❖ **History:** It was established by the United Nations in 2013.
- ❖ **Significance:** It serves as a critical reminder of the world's ongoing struggle against one of the most dangerous threats to humanity—nuclear weapons.

Antyodaya Diwas

Why in the news?

It is observed every year on **September 25**, which commemorates the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay

- ❖ **History of this day:** It was first observed in 2014.
- ❖ **Focus:** It focuses on uplifting the most disadvantaged people in society, promoting Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's vision of social justice and inclusive growth.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay

- ❖ Pandit Deendayal was born in the Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh on September 25, 1916.
- ❖ He was a prominent Indian political thinker and founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.
- ❖ He is known for his philosophy of **Integral Humanism** and **Antyodaya**, which emphasizes the welfare of the last person in society.



News in Short

- ❖ The Mizoram government has introduced a new initiative called Bana Kaih to support small entrepreneurs and farmers.
- ❖ Sports Minister Surendra Mehta inaugurated Bihar's first sport climbing wall at the Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna.
- ❖ Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao has been sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court.
- ❖ The International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL) is celebrated every year on September 23.

- Theme 2024: Sign up for Sign Language Rights.
- ❖ Thailand becomes first Southeast Asian country to legalise same-sex marriage.
- ❖ The Bihar government is set to launch a drive to cull 'Ghodparas', popularly known as 'Nilgai' (blue bulls) and wild boars in five districts
 - The cull drive will be conducted in the most affected districts - Vaishali, East Champaran, Buxar, Siwan and Samastipur as per the "laid down procedures"



PW Web/App: <https://smart.link/7wwosivoicgd4>

For more such content, subscribe to our Telegram Channel https://t.me/pw_upsc