

5th November 2024

Digital India Common Service Center (DICSC) project

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the Digital India Common Service Centre (DICSC) project, starting with Pilibhit and Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

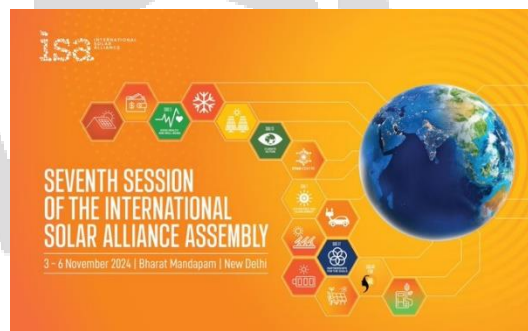
- ❖ It aims at bridging the digital divide in rural India and ensuring digital services reach every citizen.
- ❖ The initiative will establish one model DICSC center in nearly all gram panchayats across **10 districts, totalling 4,740 centres nationwide.**
 - Under the project, MeitY will establish 720 DICSC centres in Pilibhit, while Gorakhpur will have 1,273 centres.
 - Additional locations include Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (old Aurangabad, Maharashtra) with 870 centres, Chamba (Himachal Pradesh) with 309, Khammam (Telangana) with 589, Gandhinagar (Gujarat) with 288, Mamit (Mizoram) with 100, Jodhpur (Rajasthan) with 415, Leh (Ladakh) with 95, and Puducherry state with 81 DICSC centres.
- ❖ The **implementation and centralized technical monitoring of these centres will be managed by CSC e-Governance Services India Limited.**
- ❖ With a budget of over **31 crore rupees, the project is set to run initially for six months, with the possibility of extending it to nine months.**
- ❖ The primary goal is to create an **integrated platform that provides essential e-governance services** along with financial and commercial services to rural citizens.

7th Session of ISA

Seventh Session of International Solar Alliance (ISA) assembly is being held in New Delhi from 3rd to 6th November 2024.

Key Points

- ❖ The seventh session of the **International Solar Alliance is going to be held under the presidency of India and co-presidency of France.**
- ❖ The assembly is **presided over by Shri Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy.**
- ❖ Ministers, missions, and delegates from 120 Member and Signatory Countries, along with partner organisations and stakeholders come together to focus on initiatives to improve energy access, security, and transition.



- ❖ During this three-day assembly, the major **Focus will be on the initiatives to improve energy access, security, and transition.** At this assembly, the fulcrum of the discussions will be the means and modes that will be adopted to accelerate solar deployment across Member Countries, especially in regions with limited energy access. Additionally, updates on the following ISA's flagship initiatives for entrepreneurs, skill enhancement and capacity building, mobilising finance, and advocacy for solar as energy as a choice will be presented:

- **SolarX Startup Challenge**, launched by ISA in collaboration with Invest India in 2022, at COP27 in Egypt, the challenge aims to foster entrepreneurship by supporting scalable and replicable solar energy business models in ISA's Member Countries.
- **The STAR-C initiative**, launched in 2022 by ISA, UNIDO, and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, France, aims to build capacity and align skills with national training needs. It enhances quality infrastructure and standards for photovoltaic and solar thermal products to drive economic growth and job creation.
- **Global Solar Facility**: launched in 2022, enhances solar investments in underserved regions, particularly Africa, using tools like the Solar Payment Guarantee Fund and Solar Insurance Fund.
- **The First International Solar Festival**, launched in September 2024, brought together corporates, academia, youth, community leaders, and other stakeholders to exchange ideas, promoting creativity and international cooperation for a future driven by solar energy.

About the ISA Assembly

- ❖ The Assembly is the **apex decision-making body of ISA**, representing each Member Country.
- ❖ This body makes decisions concerning the implementation of the ISA's Framework Agreement and coordinated actions to be taken to achieve its objective. The **Assembly meets annually at the ministerial level** at the ISA's seat.

- ❖ The Republic of India holds the office of the President of the ISA Assembly, with the Government of the French Republic as the co-president.

About International Solar Alliance

- ❖ The International Solar Alliance is an international organization with **120 Member & Signatory Countries**.
- ❖ It works with governments to improve energy access and security worldwide and promote solar power as a sustainable way to transition to a carbon-neutral future.
- ❖ ISA's mission is to **unlock US\$ 1 trillion of investments in solar by 2030** while reducing the cost of the technology and its financing.
- ❖ **ISA was formed at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015.**
- ❖ It is partnering with multilateral development banks (MDBs), development financial institutions (DFIs), private and public sector organisations, civil society, and other international institutions to deploy cost-effective and transformational energy solutions powered by the sun, especially in the least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

First Analog Space Mission

ISRO starts India's first analog space mission to plan lunar mission experiments.

Key Points

- ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has started the **country's first analog space mission at Leh in Ladakh**, where the space agency will simulate life in an interplanetary habitat.

- ❖ **Collaboration:** An analog space mission at Leh is a collaborative effort by Human Spaceflight Centre, ISRO, AAKA Space Studio, University of Ladakh, IIT Bombay, and supported by Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.
- ❖ **Aim:** The mission aims to **simulate conditions similar to those on Mars and the Moon** while considering Ladakh's extreme climate and geographical terrain. The mission tries to replicate the challenges that astronauts would face in extreme conditions of celestial bodies.
- ❖ **Facilities:** The mission includes a compact, inflatable habitat **named Hab-1**, which is equipped with essentials like a hydroponics farm, kitchen, and sanitation facilities.
 - It provides a self-sustaining environment, offering valuable data as India is planning long-duration space missions to the Moon, Mars, and beyond.

What are analog space missions?

- ❖ Analog space missions **are field tests in locations on Earth that have physical similarities to the extreme space environments** and play a significant role in problem solving for spaceflight research.
- ❖ Analog missions prepare us for near-term and future exploration to asteroids, Mars, and the Moon.

Why Ladakh?

- ❖ **Ladakh has been chosen for such a mission** as the geographical features of the area dry and cold climate, barren land, high-altitude terrain and extreme isolation are considered to closely resemble Martian and lunar landscapes.

- ❖ Lying at an elevation over 3,000 metres above sea level, Ladakh has oxygen levels only 40 percent of those at sea level. The low-pressure and low-oxygen setting allows researchers to evaluate life support systems under conditions similar to those on Mars.

First Asian Buddhist Summit

First Asian Buddhist Summit is taking place from November 5-6 in New Delhi.

Key Points

- ❖ **Organizers:** It is being organised by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation.
- ❖ **Theme:** The theme of this summit is '**Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia**'.
- ❖ **Chief guest:** President Droupadi Murmu



- ❖ The Summit brings together **Sangha leaders, scholars, experts and practitioners from various Buddhist traditions** across Asia to foster dialogue, promote understanding and address contemporary challenges faced by the Buddhist community.
- ❖ Buddhism holds a unique position in the spiritual and cultural history of India and pan-Asia. The Summit marks a unique opportunity to bring together diverse voices of Buddha's Dhamma across Asia.

Ningol Chakkouba

Ningol Chakkouba was held across Manipur with religious fervour and gaiety.

Key Points

- ❖ This is the **biggest festival of the Meitei community**.
- ❖ The festival is held every year on the **second day of the lunar month of Hiyangei of the Meitei calendar**.



- ❖ The main component of the festival is the **visit of married sisters to their maternal homes for grand feast and joyous reunion** followed by giving away the gifts.
- ❖ It is customary for the son of the family to extend a formal invitation to his sister for Ningol Chakkouba a week before the gathering.

Person in News- Appointments

IAS Rajesh Kumar Singh

- ❖ He has **been appointed as Defence Secretary**.



Person in News- Worldwide

Duma Boko

- ❖ He has been **elected as the President of Botswana**.
- ❖ Botswana is a landlocked country in Southern Africa.

- ❖ Botswana shares borders with four other countries: **South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Namibia**.



Military Exercises

Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR

Joint Special force exercise between India and US



- ❖ The 15th India-US joint Special Forces Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR is being held at **Orchard Combat Training Centre in Idaho, US**.
- ❖ It will conclude on 22nd of this month (November).
- ❖ The **last edition of the same exercise was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya in December last year**.
- ❖ This is the second exercise of the year between the Indian and the US Army. The previous exercise – YUDH ABHYAS 2024, was conducted in Rajasthan in September.
- ❖ The aim of Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR is to promote military cooperation between India and the US through the enhancement of interoperability, jointness and mutual exchange of special operations tactics.

Exercise GARUD SHAKTI 24**India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces**

- ❖ The Indian Army contingent participated in the **9th edition of India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise GARUD SHAKTI 24.**
- ❖ The aim of the Exercise is to **acquaint both the sides with each other's operating procedures**, enhance mutual understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the Special Forces of both armies.
- ❖ It involved the joint practice of **Special Forces Operations in Jungle terrain**, strikes on terrorist camps and a Validation Exercise integrating basic and advanced special forces skills apart from gaining an insight into the lifestyle and culture of both countries to foster military cooperation.

Assam

- ❖ **Bhasha Gaurav Saptah is observed from the 3rd November to the 9th November in Assam.**
- ❖ The week is a remarkable attempt to highlight the enthusiasm of Assam's people in giving the Assamese language the status of a classical language. The Bhasha Gaurav Saptah aims to celebrate the diversity and legacy of Assam's languages.

Gujarat

- ❖ The Home Minister had inaugurated **Gujarat's largest waste-to-energy plant in Piplaj, Ahmedabad.**

Himachal Pradesh

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh's **Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park' set to become India's first Zoo with IGBC certification.**

Karnataka

- ❖ **Bali Padyami festival is celebrated on the fourth day of Deepavali in Karnataka.**
- ❖ It is believed that the Asura king Bali Chakravarty comes out of Pathala loka and visits Bhuloka as per the boon given by Lord Vishnu during Vamana Avatar.

Uttarakhand

- ❖ The Prime Minister of India launched **India's first helicopter ambulance service 'Project Sanjeevani' at Rishikesh AIIMS.** This innovative service aims to redefine trauma response by enabling rapid transportation of critical patients to hospitals within the crucial 'golden hour' window.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar formally **inaugurated the new Consulate General of India in Brisbane, Australia.**
- ❖ India has invited **President of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto** as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day 2025.

