

FIVE EYES

'FIVE EYES' COUNTRIES



Key Points:

- ❖ These partner nations exchange a wide spectrum of intelligence within one of the world's most tightly-knit multilateral agreements as part of the collaboration.
- ❖ Following its origin, the agency later enlarged its core group to 'Nine Eyes' and 14 Eyes alliances as well, encompassing more countries as security partners.
- ❖ The 'Nine Eyes' group expands to cover the Netherlands, Denmark, France and Norway, whereas the 14 Eyes bloc further includes Belgium, Italy, Germany, Spain and Sweden.

Why was the Five Eyes Alliance Formed?

- ❖ The alliance's origins can be traced back to the Second World War.
- ❖ The UK and the US decided to share intelligence after successfully breaking German and Japanese codes, respectively. In 1943, the Britain-USA (BRUSA) agreement laid the foundations for what would become the UK-USA (UKUSA) agreement.
- ❖ BRUSA was signed to share intelligence information between the two countries to support US forces in Europe. Following this, the UKUSA (UK-USA) was signed in 1946.

- ❖ Canada joined it in 1949, and New Zealand and Australia did so in 1956, forming the alliance. The Agreement was not officially acknowledged though its existence was known about from the 1980s. But in 2010, the UKUSA agreement files were released.

How does the Five Eyes Alliance Work?

- ❖ Countries often engage with each other on matters of intelligence gathering and security. In recent years, common interests, such as balancing the rise of China, have led to a closer alignment among the Five Eyes countries.
- ❖ Their closeness has also been attributed to a common language and mutual trust built over decades of association. In 2016, the Five Eyes Intelligence Oversight and Review Council came into being. It includes the non-political intelligence oversight, review, and security entities of the Five Eyes countries.

How could Five Eyes Play a Role in the Current India-Canada Issue?

- ❖ Countries like the US, the UK and Australia especially are seen as close to India. They also have significant Indian and Indian-origin populations within them, similar to Canada.
- ❖ They have also seen some instances of pro-Khalistan activities in the last few years. But due to their historical closeness to Canada and the alliance on one hand, and India, an emerging global power on the other, outright support for India or Canada is unlikely.
- ❖ Given the state of ties, these countries, particularly the US, could play a mediating role in the issue once they have clear intelligence and information on the matter.

India beat Taipei to win women's single Bendigo International Challenge Badminton Tournament



Key Points:

- ❖ India's Tanya Hemant beat Tung Ciou-Tong of Taipei in straight games to win the women's singles title at the Bendigo International Challenge badminton tournament in Bendigo, Australia. The second-seeded Tanya beat her opponent Tung, seeded sixth in the tournament, 21-17, 21-17 in the women's singles final.
- ❖ This was 21-year-old Tanya's third international title and first of the year. She finished runner-up at the Polish Open and Azerbaijan International in 2024. She won titles at the India International in 2022 and Iran Fajr International in 2023.

India to host Junior World Cup of shooting in 2025



Key Points:

- ❖ The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) President Luciano Rossi confirmed that India will host the ISSF Junior World Cup in 2025.
- ❖ India continues to be a significant force in the world of shooting not only with its

talented athletes but also through its commitment to expanding the sport's infrastructure and reach. Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) was present during the occasion.

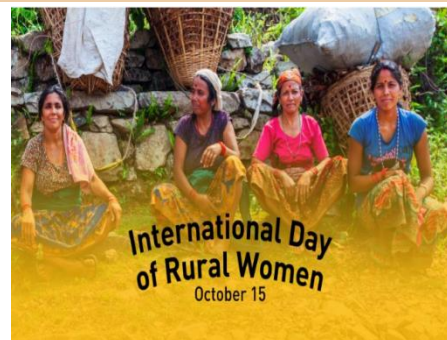
Harmanpreet Singh emerges as most expensive player in Hockey auction



Key Points:

- ❖ India captain Harmanpreet Singh became the most expensive player on day one of the Hockey India League auction, with Soorma Hockey Club snapping the star drag-flicker for 78 lakh rupees.
- ❖ Abhishek became the second-most expensive buy, acquired by Shraichi Rarh Bengal Tigers for 72 lakh rupees, while Hardik Singh went to UP Rudras for 70 lakh rupees. The league will get underway on 28th December this year.

International Day for Rural Women



Key Points:

- ❖ International Day for Rural Women is observed every year on 15 October. The day recognizes the significant contributions of rural women to food systems, agricultural production, and the environment, and calls for equal opportunities for all.

- ❖ Theme 2024 – Rural Women Sustaining Nature for Our Collective Future: Building climate resilience, conserving biodiversity, and caring for land towards gender equality and empowerment
- ❖ The International Day for Rural Women, first established by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/136 of 18 December 2007, recognizes, “the critical role and contribution of rural women, including Indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty.”

President Droupadi Murmu conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Algeria



Key Points:

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu was conferred the Degree of Honorary Doctorate in Political Science in Algeria on 15 November 2024.
- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu is on a three-nation tour of the African nations of Algeria, Mauritania, and Malawi from 13-19 October 2024.
- ❖ She will first visit Algeria, then Mauritania, and, in the last leg of her tour, Malawi.
- ❖ President Murmu is the first Indian President to visit these three African countries. During her African visit, the President is accompanied by Sukanata Majumdar, Minister of State, and Members of Parliament, Mukesh Kumar Dalal and Atul Garg.
- ❖ The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, also paid floral tributes to Dr APJ

Abdul Kalam on his birth anniversary on 15 October at Algiers

Main Highlights of President's Visit to Algeria

- ❖ President Murmu was on a three-day official visit to Algeria from 13-15 October 2024.
- ❖ President Murmu was received at the Algiers airport by the President of Algeria, Abdelmadjid Tebboune.
- ❖ President Murmu held official talks with the President of Algeria, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, at the El Mouradia Palace in Algiers and discussed bilateral issues.
- ❖ President Murmu was conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Political Science by the Scientific and Technological Hub, Martyr Ihaddaden Abdelhafid University of Algeria.
- ❖ President Murmu also addressed the Algerian-Indian Economic Forum, jointly organised by the Algerian Economic Renewal Council and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

India Algeria Relations

- ❖ Diplomatic ties between India and Algeria were established in July 1962 after Algeria gained independence from France.
- ❖ The bilateral trade between the two countries was USD 17733.7 million in 2023-24. India's exports to Algeria were US\$848.16 million in 2023-24, and imports from Algeria were US\$885.54 million.
- ❖ India mainly exported rice, pharmaceutical products, polyethylene terephthalate, granite, boneless meat, etc., to Algeria while importing petroleum oils, LNG, natural calcium phosphates, saturated methanol, and urea from Algeria.
- ❖ Around 3800 Indians are working in Algeria. Both skilled and semi-skilled Indians are working in Algeria on various projects.

India host the 19th ICDRA meeting for the first time in New Delhi



Key Points:

- ❖ India is hosting the 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA) meeting in New Delhi from 14 to 18 October 2024.
- ❖ India was to host the event in 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was postponed and is now being held in 2024.
- ❖ India is hosting the ICDRA meeting for the first time. The 18th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities meeting was held in Dublin, Ireland in 2018.
- ❖ The meeting will bring together drug authorities from World Health Organisation (WHO) member countries to strengthen collaboration and develop international consensus on regulatory priorities

Organiser of the 19th ICDRA meeting

- ❖ The 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities is hosted by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ The CDSO comes under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfares.

Theme of the 19th ICDRA meeting

- ❖ Smart Regulation: Delivering Quality Assured Medical Products for All is the theme of the 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities meeting.

Who inaugurated the 19th ICDRA meeting?

- ❖ The 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities meeting was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Parkash Nadda.

About the International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities

- ❖ The World Health Organisation organised the first International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities in 1980 in Annapolis, the United States of America.
- ❖ The meeting aimed to bring together the drug regulatory authorities of WHO member countries, discuss ways to harmonise drug regulatory information and promote collaboration.
- ❖ Since then, the International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities meeting is normally held every two years.

Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)

- ❖ The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is a regulatory body under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ The Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, as amended from time to time, assigns certain functions to the central and state governments.
- ❖ The CDSCO performs the function assigned to the central government. It is responsible for granting approval to new drugs and clinical trials.
- ❖ It sets the standards for drugs in the country, exercises control over the quality of imported Drugs, coordinates the activities of State Drug Control Organisations, and provides expert advice so as to bring uniformity in enforcing the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
- ❖ **Headquarters: New Delhi**

Omar Abdullah Sworn in as the first CM of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir



Key Points:

- ❖ Omar Abdullah of the National Conference party was sworn in as the first chief minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on 16 October 2024.
- ❖ Along with Omar Abdullah, five ministers, four from the National Conference Party and one independent, were also sworn in.
- ❖ Surinder Kumar Choudhary, the National Conference MLA from the Jammu region, was sworn in as deputy chief minister.
- ❖ Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, administered the oath of office to the chief minister and his council of ministers at a ceremony held at the Sher-iKashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar on 16 October 2024.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir have been under the president's rule since the fall of the PDP-BJP coalition government in 2018. The President's rule was revoked after 6 years by the President on 13 October 2024.

2nd term as Chief Minister for Omar Abdullah

- ❖ Omar Abdullah has been sworn in as the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir for the second time. He became the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir for the first time in January 2009 and remained till 8th January 2014.
- ❖ However, he is the first person to be the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir after its status was changed from a state to a Union Territory and split into Jammu and

Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh on 31st October 2019.

- ❖ The bifurcation and change in the status of Jammu and Kashmir was done under the provision of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, passed by the Indian Parliament.

Strength of the Council of Ministers in Jammu and Kashmir

- ❖ According to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, the maximum strength of the council of ministers, including the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, shall not be more than 10 per cent of the total members in the Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ The total strength of the Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly is 116. Of these, 114 members are directly elected by the people, and two seats are reserved for women, who are nominated by the Lieutenant Governor.
- ❖ Out of the 114 seats, 24 seats are reserved for the people of Jammu and Kashmir under the illegal occupation of Pakistan.
- ❖ Thus, the maximum number of members of the present Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly is 92 (90 elected and 2 nominated women members).
- ❖ Hence, the maximum number of members of the council of ministers of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, including the chief minister, cannot exceed 9.

No Member of Congress in the Council of Ministers

- ❖ The National Conference, in alliance with the Congress party, fought the recently held legislative assembly election in the Union Territory. The National Conference emerged as the largest party, with 42 seats, while the Congress won 6 seats. However, the Congress Party has declined to join the Omar Abdullah government.

- ❖ However, Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were present at the oath-taking ceremony.
- ❖ Bharatiya Janata Party is the main opposition party in the legislative assembly with 26 members.

India & Colombia sign agreement to boost Film Industry Partnership



Key Points:

- ❖ India and Columbia have signed an AudioVisual Co-Production Agreement to boost the partnership between the film industry in both countries.
- ❖ Colombia is the 17th country with which India has signed such an agreement. The agreement between India and Columbia is expected to benefit producers from both countries by pooling their creative, artistic, technical, financial, and marketing resources for co-production.

Who signed the agreement?

- ❖ The India -Colombia Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement was signed by Dr. L. Murugan, the Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, and Jorge Enrique Rojas Rodriguez, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia.
- ❖ The agreement was signed in New Delhi on 15 October 2024.
- ❖ Jorge Enrique Rojas Rodriguez is on an official visit to India. He also participated in the 10th round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Colombia, held in New Delhi on 15 October 2024.

Benefits of the Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement

- ❖ The agreement will allow both Indian and Colombian filmmakers to shoot films in the other country.
- ❖ The agreement will allow film projects to qualify as domestic productions in both partner countries.
- ❖ This will help the film-producing companies receive benefits reserved for local companies, like government financial assistance, tax incentives, and eligibility for inclusion in domestic TV broadcast quotas.
- ❖ This agreement will also help Indian filmmakers capture the South American market. This agreement will help promote India as a film location worldwide, boosting employment and the country's soft power.

Countries with which India has signed such agreement

- ❖ India has signed the Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement with 17 countries in the world. An agreement was signed with Italy and the United Kingdom in 2005, Germany in 2007, Brazil in 2007, France in 2010, New Zealand in 2011, Poland and Spain in 2012, Canada and China in 2014, South Korea in 2015, Bangladesh in 2016, Portugal in 2017, Israel in 2018, Russia in 2019, Australia in 2023 and Colombia in 2024.

Recent Facilities Launched in Banking & Insurance Sector

Key Points:

- ❖ SBI Card launches KrisFlyer SBI Card in partnership with Singapore Airlines
- ❖ Reliance Nippon Life Insurance unveils 'Nishchit Pension' to help Indians secure guaranteed long-term retirement income
- ❖ Arka Fincap launches 'Uday' to boost MSME Growth with Small Ticket Loans

- ❖ Magma HDI General Insurance unveiled a OneProtect, a contemporary personal accident insurance product
- ❖ ICICI Bank and MakeMyTrip unveils co-branded credit card for travel enthusiasts
- ❖ Axis Bank's new economy group launches Corporate Credit Card Suite for startups

India, US sign Rs 32,000-crore deal for 31 Predator drones



Key Points:

- ❖ India has signed a deal with the US for the procurement of 31 Predator MQ-9B High Altitude Long Endurance UAV manufactured by General Atomics.
- ❖ The development comes less than a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden held talks about the acquisition of the drones on the sidelines of the Quad Leaders' Summit held in Delaware.
- ❖ This deal, aimed at enhancing the country's operational readiness and military strength, includes tri-service procurement of the MQ-9B Sky Guardian and Sea Guardian drones.
- ❖ The MQ-9B Predator is a next-generation remotely piloted aircraft capable of conducting a range of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions.
- ❖ The drone can fly as close to 250 metres from the ground without the target even having an inkling it is there unless spotted. With a maximum speed of 442 km/h, the drone can soar at an altitude of around 50,000 feet, higher than that of a commercial airplane.

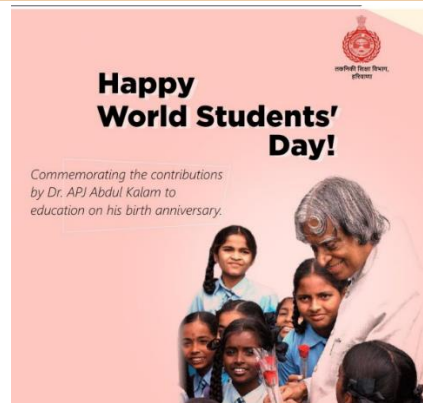
75th International Astronautical Congress begins in Milan with focus on responsible space for sustainability



Key Points:

- ❖ The 75th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) opened at the MiCo Convention Center in Milan, Italy. The event has drawn more than 10,000 space experts, scholars, entrepreneurs, and professionals from around the world.
- ❖ Italian President Sergio Mattarella attended the opening ceremony.
- ❖ This year's congress, themed "Responsible Space for Sustainability," focuses on promoting the sustainable development of space technologies globally, ensuring that future space exploration and utilization strike a balance between scientific advancement and environmental protection.
- ❖ Throughout the week, over 200 technical sessions will be held, covering a wide range of topics, including the sustainable exploration of the Moon and Mars, spacebased Earth observation for climate change, the role of private companies in space development, and applications of artificial intelligence.

15 October – World Students' Day



Key Points:

- ❖ World Students' Day is observed every year on 15 October to honour the contributions of the former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam in the field of education.
 - ❖ Known as the Missile Man of India, India's 11th president from (2002 -2007) was a distinguished administrator and scientist who spent more than forty years with the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- ❖ Theme 2024 – Empowering Students to be Agents of Change To commemorate Kalam's numerous achievements, particularly in the areas of academia and research, October 15 was chosen as World Students' Day in 2010.

