

19th October 2024

Pavana Chitra

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh unveiled Pavana Chitra, India's first Airport based self-powered indoor air quality monitoring facility at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport.



Key Point

- ❖ The off-grid air quality monitor is powered by indigenous indoor solar cells developed by CSIR-NIIST, and crafted from locally available materials.
- ❖ As part of the CSIR-NIIST Golden Jubilee celebrations, Dr. Singh inaugurated the Centre of Excellence in Performance Chemicals and Sustainable Polymers and laid the foundation for a **Centre of Excellence in Ayurveda**.
- ❖ The air quality monitor includes various sensors that track: Temperature, Humidity, Carbon dioxide levels, Carbon monoxide levels, Volatile organic compounds.

- ❖ It calculates the air quality index and provides all the measurements on a single screen.
- ❖ NIIST is developing an application that is used to access the readings using smartphones and other large public display screens that will be placed within the airport environment.

Key Government Initiatives for Controlling Air Pollution

- ❖ New Commission for Air Quality Management
- ❖ Graded Response Action Plan (for Delhi).
- ❖ National Clean Air Programme
- ❖ System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) Portal.
- ❖ **For Reducing Vehicular Pollution:**
- ❖ BS-VI Vehicles,
- ❖ National Electric Mobility Mission Plan

Orchha set to become World Heritage' site

Ram Raja's city Orchha has also been included in the **UNESCO World Heritage list**. The Central Government has handed over the dossier (compiled documents) prepared by the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board for the nomination of this historical group to the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO.



Key Point

- ❖ Orchha will become the **only state-protected World Heritage Site in India**, after an official declaration by UNESCO.
- ❖ Orchha, on the **banks of Betwa**, is well known for its unique architectural style and rich historical significance. It is renowned for Bundela architecture, exemplified by majestic palaces, temples, and forts.
- ❖ The state also has **14 sites on UNESCO's tentative list**, including Gwalior Fort, Burhanpur's Khuni Bhandara, Chambal Valley rock art sites, Bhojpur's Bhojeshwar Mahadev Temple, Gond monuments of Ramnagar (Mandla), Dhamnar's historical group, Mandu's group of monuments, Orchha's historical group, and the Narmada Valley, which includes Bhedaghat-Lametaghat, Satpura Tiger Reserve, and Chanderi.

List of UNESCO Heritage Sites in Madhya Pradesh

UNESCO Site	Description
Khajuraho Group of Monuments (1986)	Intricately carved temples featuring exquisite erotic sculptures.
Sanchi Stupa (1989)	Ancient stupas, monasteries, and relics dating back to the Mauryan period.
Bhimbetka Rock Shelters (2003)	Prehistoric rock shelters with ancient cave paintings depicting human life.

Karmayogi Saptah

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the **Karmayogi Saptah-National Learning Week (NLW)** on 19 October in New Delhi.



Key Point

- ❖ During the week, each Karmayogi will commit to achieving a target of at least 4 hours of competency-linked learning.
- ❖ NLW will be dedicated to learning through various forms of engagement by individual participants and Ministries, Departments, and Organizations.
- ❖ The participants may complete the targeted hours through a mix of individual role-based modules on iGOT, webinars, public lectures and policy master-classes by eminent persons.
- ❖ Mission Karmayogi was launched in September 2020 and it has made substantial progress since then.
- ❖ It envisions a future-ready civil service rooted in Indian ethos, with a global perspective.

Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra

Recently, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) inaugurated a new 'Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra (PMDK)' of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), at the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun.



Key Point

- ❖ PMDK is part of ALIMCO's initiative under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❖ It is an initiative specifically designed to support and empower senior citizens and persons with disabilities, focusing particularly on those with visual impairments.
- ❖ The first PM Divyasha Kendra (PMDK) was set up at Goa Medical College, Bambolim, Goa.
- ❖ As of now 46 PMDKs have already been opened and 34 of them made operational covering each States/UTs of the Country.
- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has decided to open centres in every 100 KM radius of the Country.
- ❖ So that the benefit of Assistive Devices can be made available to the eligible beneficiary nearer to his or her doorstep with minimum waiting time.

ISSF World Cup Final

In the ISSF World Cup Final Shooting, India's **Vivaan Kapoor** claimed the silver medal in the trap event at the ISSF World Cup Final in New Delhi.

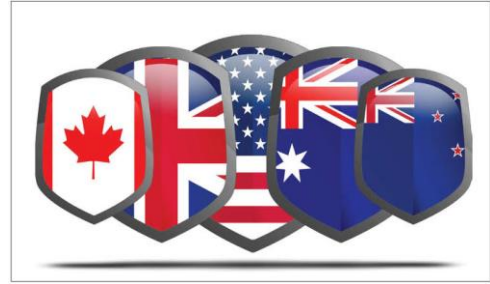


Key Point

- ❖ Vivaan shot 44 in the final to finish behind gold medal winner Ying Qi of China, while Turkey's Tolga N. Tuncer won the bronze medal with a score of 35.
- ❖ Anantjeet Singh Naruka bagged the bronze medal in the Skeet Final Shotgun event.
- ❖ China remained at the top of the medal tally with a total of 8 medals, which included five gold and three bronze.
- ❖ India stands in 9th place with a total of 4 medals, which included two silver and two bronze.

Five Eye Alliance

- ❖ Recently, the United Kingdom, a member of the Five Eyes alliance, has **supported Canada** in its diplomatic crisis with India.



Key Point

- ❖ The Five Eyes Alliance was Founded In 1941
- ❖ Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the US are its member countries
- ❖ These partner countries share a broad range of intelligence with one another.
- ❖ Following its origin, the agency later enlarged its core group to 'Nine Eyes' as and 14 Eyes alliances encompassing more countries security partners.

Short News

- ❖ India's **Arjun Erigaisi** has won the WR Chess Masters Cup after defeating Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in the finals at London.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet recently approved an additional installment of dearness allowance (DA) to Central government employees, and dearness relief (DR) to pensioners to compensate for price rise.

- ❖ *Nayab Singh Saini of the Bharatiya Janata Party was sworn in as the chief minister of Haryana for the second consecutive time.*
 - ❖ *The government of India has approved a hike of Rs 300 per quintal in the minimum support price (MSP) for Rapeseed and Mustard and Rs 150 per quintal for wheat for the 2025-26 agricultural season.*
 - ❖ *The 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union was held at the IPU's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland*
- ❖ *Aditi Anand, a 25-year-old artist from Karnal, Haryana, won the Emerging Illustrator category at the prestigious Victoria and Albert Museum's (V&A) Illustration Awards in London for her artwork titled Marigolds.*
 - ❖ *Former Indian cricket captain Mahendra Singh(MS) Dhoni has been roped as the Brand Ambassador of Chennai(Tamil Nadu, TN) based Garuda Aerospace, one of India's leading drone startups, and raised his stake in the drone startup.*
 - ❖ *The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has inaugurated the 2024 Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum.*

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Which of the following countries is not a member of the Five Eyes Alliance?

- (a) Australia
- (b) Canada
- (c) Germany
- (d) New Zealand

Answer – (c)

2. Which of the following sites will become the only state-protected World Heritage Site in India?

- (a) Hampi
- (b) Orchha
- (c) Khajuraho
- (d) Red Fort

Answer – (b)

