



# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**BY: DEEPAK SINGHAL SIR**  
**1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

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# North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to Establish Northern Land Command in Eastern Finland



- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)** will set up a **new land command in eastern Finland**, near the Russian border, in 2025.
- This command will oversee land force operations in northern Europe during military conflicts.
- The decision comes after Finland joined NATO in 2023 in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.
- Finland is organizing NATO's presence on its territory.
- Unit Designation: The new unit will be known as the **Multi Corps Land Component Command** and will operate under NATO's Norfolk Joint Force Command based in the United States.

## About NATO :

- Formation : 4 April 1949
- Headquarters : Brussels, Belgium
- Secretary General : Jens Stoltenberg
- Membership : 32 State



# Telangana Government Introduces 'Telangana Darshini' Educational Tour Program for Students



- The **Telangana government** has set in motion '**Telangana Darshini**', a scheme aimed at providing students with an immersive learning experience outside the classroom.
- The programme, under the **Youth Advancement, Tourism, and Culture (T&PMU) Department**, is designed to take school and college students on educational tours across the State.

## Key Highlights :

- **Target Audience:** The initiative caters to school and college students, from Class 2 to graduation level, ensuring the activities are suitable for different age groups.

## About Telangana :

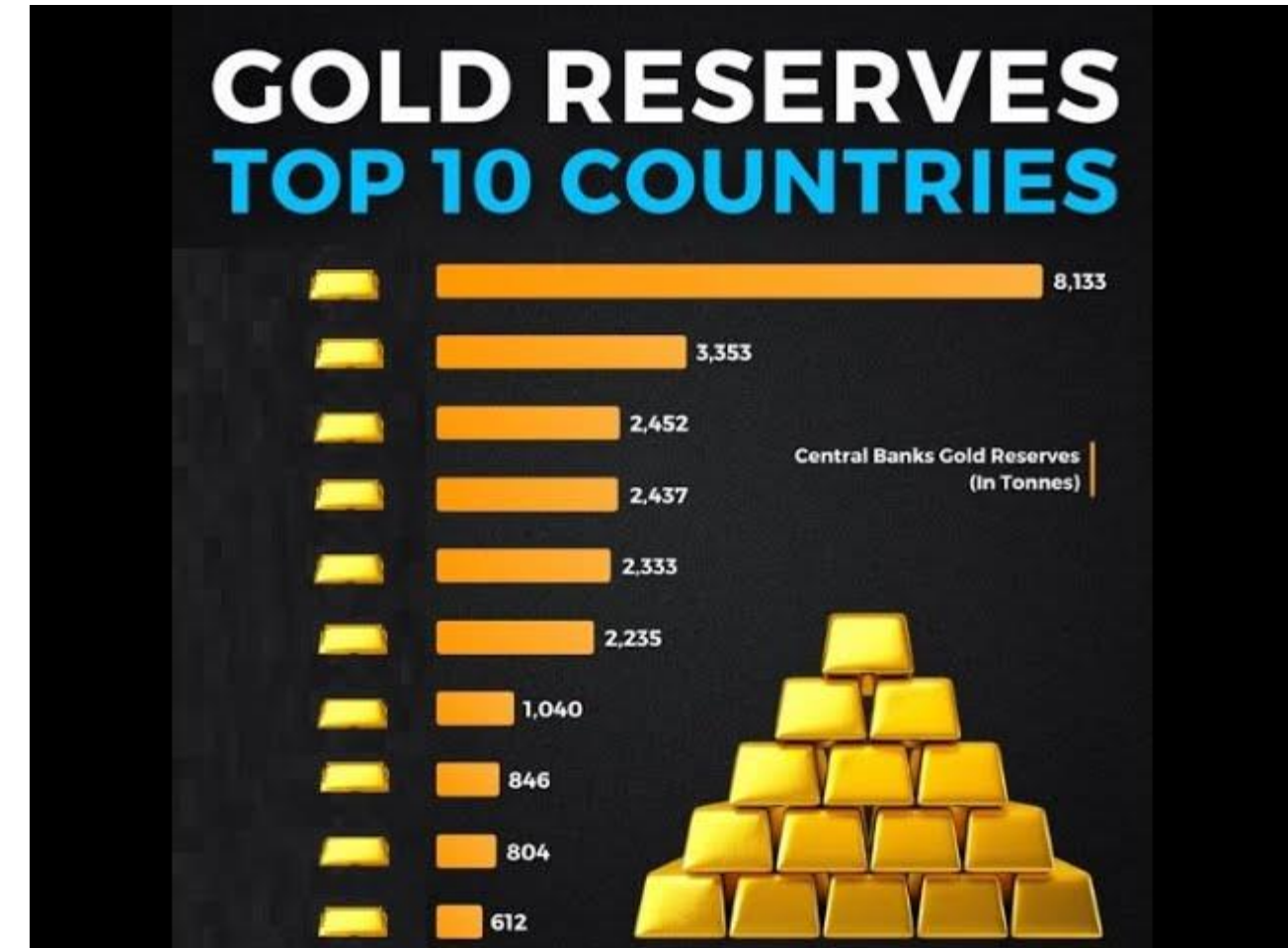
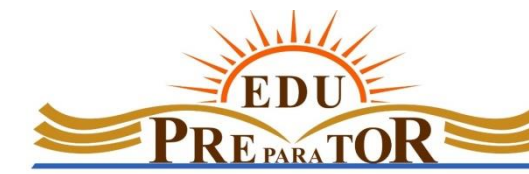
- Governor : Jishnu Dev Varma
- Chief Minister : Anumula Revanth Reddy
- Capital : Hyderabad



# Top 10 Countries with the Largest Gold Reserves (Q2 2024):

- The **United States** holds the largest gold reserves, almost equal to the combined total of **Germany, Italy, and France**.

1. United States 8,133.46
2. Germany 3,351.53
3. Italy 2,451.84
4. France 2,436.97
5. Russian Federation 2,335.85
6. China 2,264.32
7. Japan 845.97
8. India 840.76
9. Netherlands 612.45
10. Turkey 584.93



## IIFA 2024 full list of winners: Shah Rukh Khan and Rani Mukerji bag best actors, Animal wins big

- The **International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) 2024** took place in **Abu Dhabi**, featuring prominent stars from the Hindi film industry, including **Shah Rukh Khan**, **Rani Mukerji**, **Hema Malini**, **Rekha**, **Anil Kapoor**, and more.
- **Shah Rukh Khan** served as a host alongside **Vicky Kaushal** and **Karan Johar**, captivating the audience with a lively performance of his hit song "**Jhoom Jo Pathaan**."

### Major Winners Announced:

- **Best Film:** *Animal* by **Sandeep Reddy Vanga**
- **Best Actor:** **Shah Rukh Khan** for *Jawan*
- **Best Actress:** **Rani Mukerji** for *Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway*
- **Best Director:** **Vidhu Vinod Chopra** for *12th Fail*
- **Best Supporting Actor:** **Anil Kapoor** for *Animal*
- **Best Supporting Actress:** **Shabana Azmi** for *Rocky Aur*

### *Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*

- **Best Actor in a Negative Role:** **Bobby Deol** for *Animal*
- **Best Music:** *Animal*
- **Best Lyrics:** **Siddharth-Garima** for *Satranga* from *Animal*
- **Outstanding Contribution to Indian Cinema:** **Jayantilal Gada** and **Hema Malini**
- **Achievement for 25 Years in Cinema:** **Karan Johar**



## Justice Manmohan Sworn in as 32nd Chief Justice of Delhi High Court

- **Justice Manmohan**, 61 years old, took oath as the **32nd Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court**.
- The oath was administered by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena at the Raj Niwas, the LG's secretariat.
- He Succeeded Justice **Satish Chandra Sharma**.



# Sunita Williams Assumes Command of the International Space Station for the 2nd Time



- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut Sunita Williams** has assumed **command of the International Space Station (ISS)**, marking her second stint as the station's leader.
- She previously served as commander during Expedition 33 in 2012.

## Key Highlights :

- **Current Mission Details:**Williams, along with fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore, has been aboard the ISS since June 5, 2024, after launching on Boeing's Starliner spacecraft, which marked its first crewed flight.
- Their mission was initially planned for eight days but has been extended to February 2025 due to technical issues with the Starliner.
- **NASA's Future Plans:**NASA is preparing a SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft for an early 2025 mission to safely return Williams and Wilmore to Earth.



## Indian Railways Triumphs Over IOC in 95th MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup Final

- **Indian Railways** emerged victorious with a **5-3 win** over Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) in the final of the **95th MCC-Murugappa Gold All-India Hockey Tournament**.
- A large crowd **applauded the defending champions, Railways**, as they completed a lap of honour after the match.
- **Railways dominated the tournament**, and in the final, they prevented IOC, which included **former Olympians and international players**, from gaining control.





## International Day of Older Persons 2024: October 1

- The **International Day of Older Persons** is observed every year on **1st October**
- The theme for the 2024 United Nations International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP) is "**Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide**".

## World Vegetarian Day 2024: October 1

- **World Vegetarian Day** is observed on the **1st of October** of every year.
- In 1977, the **North American Vegetarian Society (NAVS)** founded **World Vegetarian Day**.



## International Coffee Day 2024: October 1

- The **International Coffee Day** is observed on **1st October** of every year.
- The **International Coffee Organisation** first declared the **International Coffee Day**.

The International Coffee Organisation was started in the year of 1963.



## Prime Minister Modi to Celebrate 10 Years of Swachh Bharat Mission on October 2

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will commemorate the completion of **10 years** since the launch of the **Swachh Bharat Mission** by participating in the **Swachh Bharat Diwas** programme on **October 2**.
- This event will take place at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.
- The programme will highlight India's decade-long achievements in sanitation and cleanliness and showcase the outcomes of the recently concluded "**Swachhata Hi Seva**"

### Theme of Swachhata Hi Seva 2024:

- The theme, "**Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata,**" aims to unify the nation in its dedication to cleanliness, public health, and environmental sustainability.



## 8th Edition of India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND 2024 Begins in Auli , Uttarakhand

- The **8th edition of the India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2024** began on September 30, 2024, at the Surya Foreign Training Node in Auli, **Uttarakhand**.
- The exercise is scheduled to take place from **September 30 to October 13, 2024**.
- KAZIND has been conducted annually since **2016**, promoting military cooperation between India and Kazakhstan.
- The last exercise was held in **Otar, Kazakhstan, from October 30 to November 11, 2023**.



## Ishpreet Singh Chadha Makes History in Pro Snooker Circuit

- **Ishpreet Singh Chadha, hailing from Mumbai, recently achieved a remarkable milestone by reaching the quarterfinals of the professional snooker circuit, defeating the legendary Mark Selby, a four-time World Snooker champion.**
- This victory marks a significant achievement for Chadha, as he becomes the first Indian in **10 years** to advance to a pro semifinal at one of the four Home Nations majors.



## International Day of Non-Violence 2024: October 2

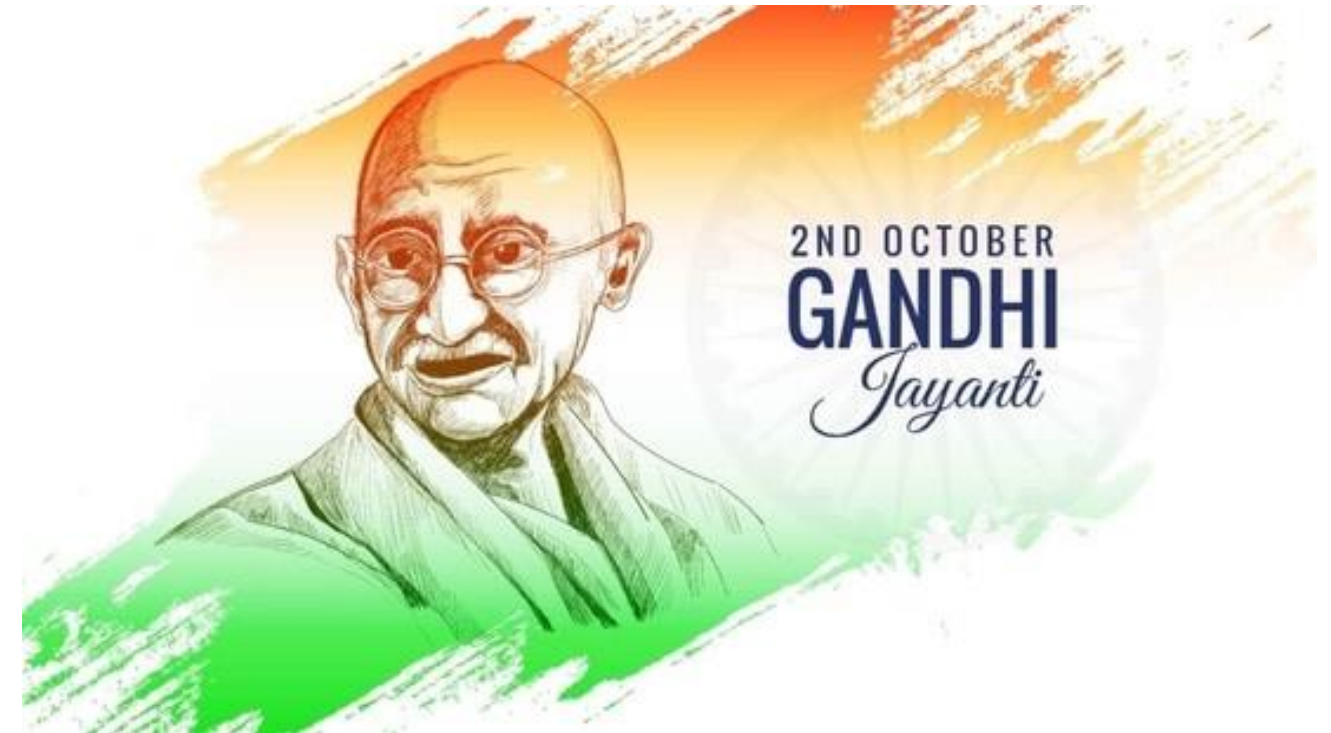
- The **International Day of Non-violence** is observed on the **2nd October** of every year.
- In 2004, Iranian Nobel laureate Shirin Ebadi had a proposal of an International Day of Non-Violence.
- This idea was gradually attracted by some leaders of India's Congress Party.
- In January 2007, they called upon the United Nations to adopt the idea.
- On 5th June 2007, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution and established the International Day of Non-Violence.
- The **International Day of Non-Violence** is observed on **2nd October** in order to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Non-violent freedom fighter **Mohandas Karmchand Gandhi**.



**INTERNATIONAL DAY  
OF NON-VIOLENCE**

## Gandhi Jayanti 2024: October 2

- **Gandhi Jayanti** is celebrated in India to **commemorate the birth anniversary of the freedom fighter Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi**, also known as Mahatma Gandhi.
- This day is celebrated on **2nd October** of every year as he was born on 2nd October 1869.
- This day is one of the national holidays in India.
- Mahatma Gandhi is also called the “**Father of The Nation**.”



## Government launches PM E-DRIVE subsidy scheme for EVs with Rs 10,900 crores outlay

- The government launched the **PM E-DRIVE Scheme**, aimed at **promoting the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs)** in India.
- The initiative comes with an **outlay of Rs 10,900 crore**, focusing on setting up charging infrastructure and developing the EV manufacturing ecosystem in the country.
- The scheme will run until **March 31, 2026**.



# India Among Top Global Performers in H1FY25

## Market Performance

- India emerged as the **second-best performing major global market** during the **first half of FY 2024-25 (H1FY25)**, closely following Hong Kong.
- Despite a **5% surge in the Hang Seng** index in September, India showed consistent growth across the first half, cementing its position as a leading global market.

## Key Points:

### Top Performing Global Markets:

- **Hong Kong** led with a late rally in September.
- **India, Singapore, the US, and China** ranked in the top five best-performing global markets.



## Mithun Chakraborty to Receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- Veteran Bollywood actor **Mithun Chakraborty**, aged 74, has been announced as the recipient of the prestigious **Dadasaheb Phalke Award** for his significant **contributions to Indian cinema**.
- The announcement was made by **Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** on social media platform X.
- Mithun Chakraborty will receive the award at the **70th National Film Awards** ceremony, scheduled for **October 8, 2024**.

### Recent Honors:

- Earlier this year, Mithun was also honoured with the **Padma Bhushan Award**, further recognizing his impact on the film industry.



## Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin appointed as the first female Director General of the Armed Forces Medical Services

- Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin has become the **first woman officer to take over as the Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS)**.
- The DGAFMS is responsible for overseeing medical policy matters related to the Indian Armed Forces and operates under the Ministry of Defence.



## Indian Space Research Organisation Plans to Launch Venus Mission in March 2028 for a 112-Day Journey to the Planet

- **India's maiden mission to Venus**, which is scheduled for launch in **March 2028**, will embark on a **112-day journey to reach the planet**.
- The ₹1,236-crore Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM) was recently approved by the Union Cabinet and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on October 1, 2024 revealed the targeted launch window for the mission.
- According to the targeted launch window for VOM, the Earth departure date is scheduled on March 29, 2028, and the arrival date on Venus is July 19, 2028. VOM will be launched by the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3).

### What is ISRO's Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM)?

- The Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM) is unofficially referred to as Shukrayaan.
- **Mission Focus:** The primary aim of VOM is to explore Venus's atmosphere and geology.
- It will gather crucial scientific data on the thick atmosphere of Venus.



## National Payments Corporation of India to create UPI-style payment system for Trinidad and Tobago

- The overseas arm of India's **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** will build a **digital payments system for Trinidad and Tobago**, modelled after India's United Payments Interface (UPI).
- The NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) signed a deal with the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Trinidad and Tobago to build a digital payments system modelled after India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for **person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions**.
- Earlier in 2024, NIPL had agreed to develop digital payments systems for **Peru and Namibia**, using UPI as a blueprint.



## Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launches India's first supercapacitor manufacturing unit at Keltron in Kannur

- **Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated **India's first supercapacitor manufacturing facility at Keltron Component Complex Limited (KCCL) in Kallyassery, Kannur, on October 1, 2024.**
- The supercapacitor manufacturing plant was developed in collaboration with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).**

### About Kerala:

- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- National Parks: Periyar National Park, Mathikettan National Park, Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park, Indira Gandhi National Park



## Inauguration of India's First Compressed Biogas Facility in Ranchi

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **first compressed biogas facility** in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**, developed by **GAIL (India) Limited** in partnership with **CEID Consultants** and **LSTK/EPC Contractor**.
- This facility represents a significant step towards sustainable waste management and clean energy production.



# Carlos Alcaraz Wins First China Open Title in a Thrilling Final Against Jannik Sinner

- **Carlos Alcaraz** secured his **first China Open title** after a hard-fought victory **over world No. 1 Jannik Sinner**.



# National Wildlife Week 2024: October 2 to 8,

- As **National Wildlife Week** approaches from **October 2 to 8, 2024**, India is gearing up to celebrate its diverse ecosystems and emphasize the vital importance of wildlife conservation.
- This year's(2024) theme, “**Wildlife Conservation Through Coexistence,**” aims to raise awareness about the pressing challenges faced by wildlife and the urgent need for collective action to preserve these invaluable resources.



## Mann Ki Baat's 10th Anniversary

Prime Minister Modi's '**Mann Ki Baat**' radio program celebrated its **10th anniversary** with its **114th episode**. Highlights include:

### Massive Reach:

- **230 million** regular listeners and **410 million** occasional listeners.
- Connected with **96%** of India, having been heard by over **1 billion** people since its launch on **October 3, 2014**.
- **Platform for Positive Stories:** The program features participation from notable personalities, including **Barack Obama** and **Lata Mangeshkar**.





## ‘Waste to Wealth’ Mantra

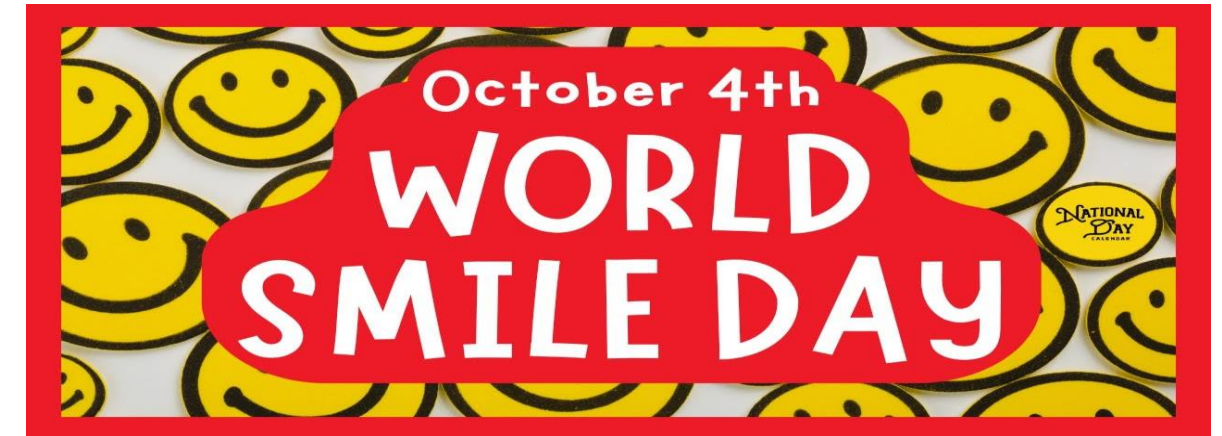
During the celebration of the **Swachh Bharat Mission's** 10-year milestone, PM Modi emphasized the growing popularity of the ‘**Waste to Wealth**’ mantra.

## World Smile Day 2024: October 4

- **World Smile Day** is celebrated on the **first Friday of October** every year.
- This year World Smile Day was celebrated on **4th October**.
- The theme for World Smile Day 2024 is "**Do an act of kindness. Help one person smile**".

## World Animal Day 2024: October 4

- **World Animal Day** is celebrated on the **4th October** of every year.
- This day is observed to raise awareness about the welfare standards of the animals.
- The theme for World Animal Day 2024 is "**The World Is Their Home Too!**".



## Launch of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)** on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary from Hazaribagh, Jharkhand.
- The scheme has a total outlay of **₹79,156 crores**, with contributions of **₹56,333 crores** from the Central government and **₹22,823 crores** from the State government.

**Vision of the Abhiyan:** The **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan** aims to fill critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood through **25 interventions** implemented by **17 line ministries** of the Government of India. The initiative focuses on the **holistic and sustainable development of tribal areas and communities**.



# Union Cabinet Approves Classical Language

## Status for Five Languages

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has approved the conferment of **Classical Language status** to **Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali**.
- This initiative aims to recognize these languages as custodians of India's profound cultural heritage.

## Key Details and Background

- **Initiation:** The Government of India first declared a **Classical Language category** on **12th October 2004** by designating **Tamil** as a Classical Language.

## Criteria for Classical Language Status:

- **High Antiquity:** Recorded history of over **1,000 years**.
- **Valuable Heritage:** A body of ancient literature/texts that has historical significance.
- **Original Literary Tradition:** The literary tradition must be unique, not borrowed from other languages.

The following languages have been conferred **Classical Language status**:

## Language Date of Notification

**Tamil**(12/10/2004), **Sanskrit**(25/11/2005) ,**Telugu**(31/10/2008) ,**Kannada**(31/10/2008) ,  
**Malayalam**(08/08/2013) ,**Odia** (01/03/2014)



## Air Marshal SP Dharkar Takes Over as Vice Chief of Air Staff

- **Air Marshal SP Dharkar** has assumed charge as the **Vice Chief of the Air Staff**.
- He succeeded **Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh**, who became the Chief of Air Staff on September 30, 2024.

### About Indian Air Force :

- Founded : 26 January 1950
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) : Air Marshal Sujeet Pushpakar Dharkar
- Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS) : Air Marshal Tejinder Singh



# Aero India is Scheduled to Take Place in Bengaluru on February 10, 2025



- **India** will host the **15th edition** of its largest air show, **Aero India**, at **Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru, Karnataka, from February 10 to February 14, 2025.**
- The event will feature participation from leading Indian and foreign manufacturers and several delegations from friendly foreign countries.
- Many fighter aircrafts and helicopters performed on air and a defence exhibition was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi.
- IAF's Tejas aircraft which is a lightweight, highly agile and multi-role supersonic fighter was a major highlight

in the aero India show in 2023.

## About Aero India :

- Aero India is organised by the Ministry of Defence which involves multiple agencies, including the **Department of Defence Production, IAF, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Department of Space, and the Union Civil Aviation Ministry.**



## India, Nepal and Bangladesh Sign Trilateral Agreement for Electricity Export

- **India, Nepal and Bangladesh** have entered into a **trilateral agreement** that enables the export of **40 megawatts** of electricity **from Nepal to Bangladesh via India's power grid**.
- This landmark deal, **signed in Kathmandu**, marks the **first instance of Nepal selling electricity to Bangladesh**, as it has previously only exported power to India.



# Indian Men's Football U-17 Wins SAFF Championship 2024

- The **Indian U-17 football team** clinched the **SAFF(South Asian Football Federation) Men's U-17 Championship 2024** by defeating Bangladesh in the final match.
- The tournament was held at the **Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan**.
- **India maintained an unbeaten record** throughout the competition, showcasing strong performances in both attack and defence.

## About SAFF:

- The **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF)** was founded in 1997 by Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and later Bhutan.
- SAFF organizes tournaments for both senior and junior categories across South Asia.
- Headquarters: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- President: Kazi Md. Salahuddin (Bangladesh)



## World Space Week (WSW) 2024: October 4 to 10.

- **World Space Week (WSW)** is an annual international celebration of science and technology and their contributions to improving the human condition. **The United Nations General Assembly declared** WSW will be observed every year from **October 4 to 10**.

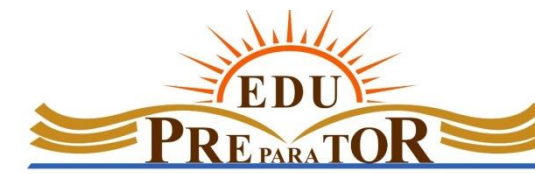
**Theme of 2024 WSW: “Space & Climate Change”**

## World Teachers Day 2024: October 5

- **World Teachers Day** or **International Teachers Day** is celebrated on the **5th October** of every year.
- This year, World Teachers Day Theme 2024 is Valuing teacher voices "**Valuing Teacher Voices: Towards a new social contract for education.**"
- World Teachers Day was established by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** in the year of 1994.



## External Affairs Minister Jaishankar to attend Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting in Pakistan, marking first EAM visit since Sushma Swaraj 9 years ago



- **External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar** will lead India's delegation to the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan** on October 15-16, 2024.
- It will be the **first visit to Pakistan by an Indian EAM in 9 years**; the last visit was by Sushma Swaraj in 2015 for the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference on Afghanistan that was held in Islamabad on December 8-9, 2015.

### Key Highlights :

- **Pakistan's Role:** Pakistan is the current rotating chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) CHG and has extended invitations to all member states, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

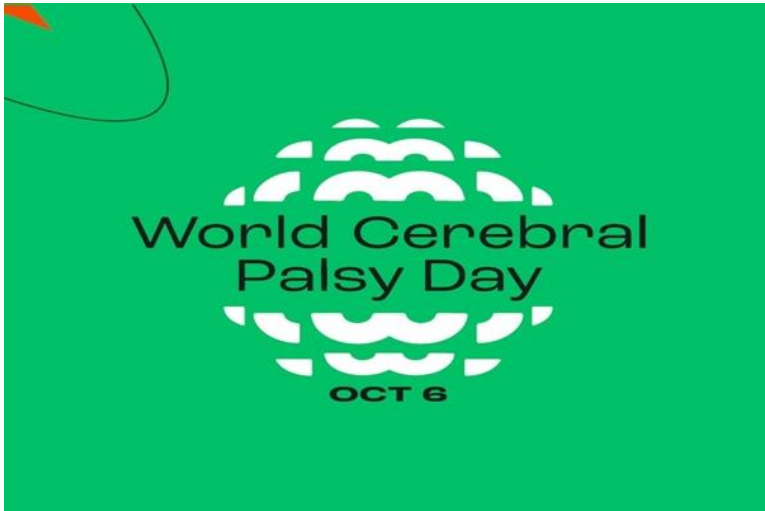
### About SCO :

- **Formed:** 15 June 2001.
- **Headquarters:** Beijing, China.
- **Secretary General:** Zhang Ming.
- **Member States:** Belarus, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.
- India and Pakistan became full members of the SCO during the 2017 Astana Summit.



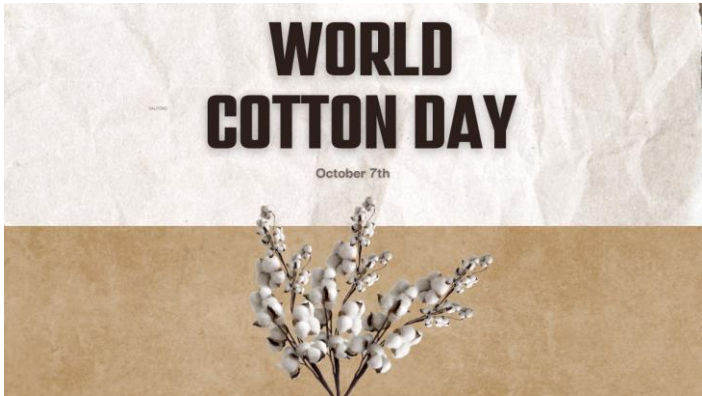
## World Cerebral Palsy Day 2024: October 6

- Every year **6th October** is observed as a **World Cerebral Palsy Day**.
- **This year's theme, ‘#UniquelyCP’**, celebrates the uniqueness of the cerebral palsy community - their interests, passions, and identities - showing that they are not solely defined by their disability.



## World Cotton Day 2024: October 7

- **World Cotton Day** is observed on 7th October of every year.
- The theme of World Cotton Day is, '**Cotton for Good**'



## World Habitat Day 2024: October 7

- **World Habitat Day** is observed on the **first Monday of October** of every year. This year World Habitat Day is celebrated on the **7th of October**.



## India elected to GlobE Steering Committee to tackle global corruption

- **India** has been elected to the **15-member steering committee of the GlobE Network** during a plenary session in Beijing.
- The election followed a multi-stage voting process, allowing India to actively contribute to global efforts in combating corruption and asset recovery.

### About GlobE Network:

- The Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) was launched under the G20 framework to address international corruption and financial crimes.
- Officially launched on **June 3, 2021, during the UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption.**
- The network currently has **121 member countries and 219 member authorities**, with India being a member.
- India's Participation in the Network: **India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED)** are part of the GlobE Network.

