

Current Affairs search results for tag: national-news

1. The world's largest Hindu temple will be inaugurated on October 8 in New Jersey, America. (Sept. 26, 2023)

The world's largest Hindu temple, BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham, will be inaugurated on October 8 in New Jersey, USA.

An Overview of the News

- The temple will be the largest in the United States and the second largest globally after Angkor Wat in Cambodia.
- BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham in Robbinsville Township, New Jersey was built with the help of more than 12,500 volunteers from different parts of the US.
- Construction lasted for 12 years from 2011 to 2023.

Temple Dimensions and Design:

- The New Jersey branch of Akshardham is spread over 183 acres and measures 255 feet x 345 feet x 191 feet.
- It was designed according to ancient Hindu scriptures and incorporates elements of Indian culture, including 10,000 statues, sculptures and carvings of Indian musical instruments and dance forms.

Unique Temple Features:

- The temple design consists of a main temple, 12 sub-temples, nine shikharas (spire-like structures), and nine pyramidal pinnacles.
- Akshardham boasts the largest elliptical dome in traditional stone architecture, designed to last for a millennium.
- Four types of stone - limestone, pink sandstone, marble, and granite - were chosen for their ability to withstand extreme temperatures.
- Approximately two million cubic feet of stone was used, which was obtained from various locations around the world, including Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Italy, India, and China.

Brahma Kund:

- The temple's Brahma Kund, a traditional Indian stepwell, contains water from over 300 reservoirs around the world, including sacred rivers of India and all 50 states of the US.
- BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham incorporates sustainable practices such as solar panel farms, use of fly ash concrete mix and the planting of over two million trees globally in recent decades.

2. Jammu and Kashmir's first Tata Memorial Cancer Care Center inaugurated in Kathua (Sept. 26, 2023)

On September 24, 2023, Jammu and Kashmir inaugurated its first Tata Memorial Cancer Care Center affiliated with Tata Memorial Cancer Care Center (TMC) Mumbai in the newly constructed block of Government Medical College (GMC) in Kathua.

An Overview of the News

- The establishment of the Tata Satellite Cancer Care facility in Kathua addresses the increasing incidence of cancer in the region, which is attributed to factors such as aging, lifestyle changes and environmental impacts.
- This healthcare facility in Kathua aims to serve not only Jammu and Kashmir but also the neighboring areas of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, which lack facilities like the Tata Memorial Center (TMC).
- The introduction of the day-care chemotherapy unit at GMC Kathua makes cancer treatment more accessible and affordable for the local population, eliminating the inconvenience and high cost associated with travel to TMC Mumbai.

India's Healthcare Vision

- Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is expanding its healthcare infrastructure, including the establishment of medical colleges, AIIMS institutes and biotech parks. 'Kathua-Udhampur-Doda' parliamentary constituency is moving towards becoming the future 'health circuit' of India.

India's Vision for Bio-economy

- India aims to achieve a \$150 billion bioeconomy by 2025, with a significant focus on biotechnology and its contribution to vaccine development and cancer treatment.

Leading Cancer Hospital in India

- Tata Memorial Hospital is located in Mumbai.
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is located in New Delhi.
- Cancer Institute, located in Chennai.
- Apollo Specialty Hospital is located in Chennai.
- Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute is located in Ahmedabad.
- Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre is located in Delhi.
- Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology is located in Bengaluru.
- Regional Cancer Centre, located in Thiruvananthapuram.
- HCG (Healthcare Global Enterprises), based in Bengaluru.
- Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research is located in Chandigarh.

3. Prime Minister inaugurates nine new Vande Bharat trains (Sept. 25, 2023)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off nine new Vande Bharat trains, enhancing India's rail connectivity and passenger experience, through video conferencing on September 24, 2023.

An Overview of the News

- These trains are part of the government's efforts to improve connectivity across India and provide world-class facilities to rail passengers.
- With these nine new trains, the total number of Vande Bharat trains in operation across India has reached 34. This includes 25 trains that were already serving in various states and union territories.

List of New Vande Bharat Trains:

1. Udaipur-Jaipur Vande Bharat Express
2. Tirunelveli-Madurai-Chennai Vande Bharat Express
3. Hyderabad-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express
4. Vijayawada-Chennai (via Renigunta) Vande Bharat Express
5. Patna-Howrah Vande Bharat Express
6. Kasaragod-Thiruvananthapuram Vande Bharat Express
7. Rourkela-Bhubaneswar-Puri Vande Bharat Express
8. Ranchi-Howrah Vande Bharat Express
9. Jamnagar-Ahmedabad Vande Bharat Express

Important facts about Vande Bharat trains:

- These nine trains will increase connectivity in 11 states: Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, West Bengal, Kerala, Odisha, Jharkhand and Gujarat.
- Vande Bharat trains will run at the fastest speed on its routes, reducing travel time compared to existing trains.
- They will facilitate connectivity to important religious pilgrimage sites.
- Equipped with world-class amenities and advanced safety features, these trains aim to provide modern, fast and comfortable travel options for a wide range of passengers including professionals, businessmen, students and tourists.

4. 1,000-year-old alien corpse unveiled in Mexican Congress (Sept. 23, 2023)

Jaime Maussan, a leading UFO expert, recently revealed in the Mexican Congress two alleged "non-human" bodies believed to be 1,000 years old.

An Overview of the News

- These bodies were reportedly found in a mine in Cuzco, Peru.
- Researchers claim that the genetic structure of these dead bodies is 30 percent different from that of humans.
- Carbon dating by the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) confirmed their age to be over 1,000 years.

Unusual Features:

- The bodies were human-like in shape but displayed distinctive features such as three-fingered hands and feet.
- They had retractable necks and long skulls that resembled bird-like features.
- The bones of these creatures were strong, light, and lacked teeth.

Implantation and Embryo:

- Eggs with embryos were found in one of these bodies.
- Implants made of the metals cadmium and osmium were discovered.

Previous claims by Maussan:

- In 2015, Jaime Maussan presented another alleged "alien" body, found near the Nazca Lines in Peru, famous for its giant and mysterious geoglyphs.

5. National Medical Commission achieved the prestigious WFME accreditation status for 10 years (Sept. 22, 2023)

The National Medical Commission (NMC) in India achieved a remarkable 10-year WFME accreditation status.

An Overview of the News

- This recognition reflects NMC's strong commitment to maintaining high standards in medical education and accreditation.
- All 706 existing medical colleges in India will get WFME recognition.
- New medical colleges established within the next 10 years will automatically receive WFME recognition.
- It aims to enhance the quality and standards of medical education in India by aligning it with global best practices.

International Opportunities for Indian Medical Graduates:

- Indian medical graduates can now undertake postgraduate training and practice in countries requiring WFME accreditation such as the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
- This recognition is expected to enhance the international reputation of Indian medical schools and professionals.

Advantages for Indian Students:

- NMC's WFME accreditation allows all Indian students to apply for the Commission on Foreign Medical Education (ECFMG) and the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).
- It provides global career prospects to Indian medical students.

About WFME:

- The World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) is a global organization dedicated to improving the quality of medical education worldwide.
- WFME's accreditation program ensures that medical institutions worldwide meet and maintain the highest international standards in education and training.

About NMC:

- The National Medical Commission (NMC) is the primary regulatory body overseeing medical education and practice in India.
- NMC is committed to maintaining the highest standards in health care education while ensuring the delivery of quality medical education and training across India.

Member of the Ethics and Medical Registration Board and Head of Media Division at NMC - **Dr. Yogendra Malik**

6. Parliament passes the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Sept. 22, 2023)

Parliament successfully passed the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, which provides for the reservation of one-third of the total seats for women in the Lok Sabha, state legislatures, and the Delhi Assembly.

An Overview of the News

- The Women's Reservation Bill called the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, got approval in the Rajya Sabha with an overwhelming majority on September 21, 2023, as 214 members voted in favor of it, while none opposed it.
- The Lok Sabha already passed the Women's Reservation Bill with overwhelming support as 454 MPs voted in favor, while only two MPs opposed it. Speaker Om Birla had formally announced the passage of the bill in the lower house.

Major Provisions and Effects

- The Women's Reservation Bill aims to reserve one-third of the seats for women in the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, and the Delhi Assembly.
- It includes provisions for 33 percent reservation for women in Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) within the existing quota based on census and delimitation.

About Article 243(D)

- Article 243(D) of Part IX of the Constitution mandates the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in all three levels of Panchayats.
- State legislatures are responsible for establishing provisions that reserve the posts of chairpersons in Panchayats for persons belonging to SC and ST communities.
- Article 243(D) also provides that at least one-third of the seats in Panchayats should be reserved for women.
- Additionally, State Legislatures have the power to provide for reservation in favor of backward classes in terms of seats or the post of Speakers.

Additional Information:-

- Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal introduced the 128th Amendment Bill, 2023 to achieve 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies.
- Arjun Ram Meghwal, while introducing the bill, had said that if it is passed, the number of seats reserved for women in the Lok Sabha will increase from 82 to 181.

Chairman of Rajya Sabha - **Jagdeep Dhankar**

7. India Global Forum and World Governments Summit signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (Sept. 21, 2023)

Manoj Ladwa, Founder and Chairman of India Global Forum and Mohammed Al Sharhan, Managing Director of the World Governments Summit signed the MoU to set up the Emerging Economies Programme.

An Overview of the News

- The event will bring together government officials, business leaders, economists, and experts.
- It will facilitate discussion on sustainable economic development, geo-economic perspective, and innovative solutions.
- The objective of this partnership is to promote thought leadership in the region.
- Emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities related to the Global South will be researched.
- The program will also improve field data for the benefit of future governments.

Importance of Emerging Economies Programme:

- This program is an important initiative that aims to promote sustainable economic development in the Global South.
- It reflects the commitment of the India Global Forum and the World Government Summit to build a better future for all.

About India Global Forum:

- India Global Forum serves as a gateway for businesses and nations wishing to engage with contemporary India.
- It provides insight into India's political, economic, and cultural landscape for those entering the Indian market or looking for global opportunities.

About the World Governments Summit:

- The World Government Summit Organization is a global, non-profit organization dedicated to shaping the future of governments.
- It focuses on innovation and technology to address global challenges facing governments and humanity as a whole.

About the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

- **Location:** It is located in Western Asia.
- **Geographical boundaries:** It shares borders with Oman and Saudi Arabia.
- **Maritime Borders:** It also has maritime borders with Qatar and Iran in the Persian Gulf.

Capital - **Abu Dhabi**

Official language - **Arabic**

President/Crown Prince - **Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

Prime Minister - **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy and Vice President of the World Government Summit Organization - **Omar Sultan Al Olama**

8. The Prime Minister will inaugurate 16 Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas in Uttar Pradesh (Sept. 21, 2023)

16 Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas in Uttar Pradesh will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Varanasi.

An Overview of the News

- Built at a cost of over Rs 1,100 crore, these schools aim to provide quality education to laborers, children of construction workers, and orphans affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Each school is spread over 10 to 15 acres and has classrooms, sports facilities, recreational areas, a mini auditorium, hostels, mess halls, and staff accommodation.
- The ultimate goal of each of these Awasiya Vidyalayas is to accommodate 1,000 students.

The foundation stone of the International Cricket Stadium:

- The Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of the international cricket stadium in Varanasi.
- Located in Ganjri, Rajatalab, Varanasi, this cricket stadium will cover a vast area of 30 acres and is estimated to cost around Rs 450 crore.
- It is designed to seat 30,000 spectators.

Closing Ceremony of Kashi Sansad Cultural Mahotsav 2023:

- The Prime Minister will also attend the closing ceremony of the Kashi Sansad Cultural Festival 2023.
- This cultural festival saw the participation of over 37,000 persons representing 17 different disciplines including singing, musical instrument playing, street theater (nukkad natak), and various dance forms.

9. Women's Reservation Bill passed in Lok Sabha (Sept. 21, 2023)

The Lok Sabha has given its assent to the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, commonly known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam.

An Overview of the News

- The Women's Reservation Bill has a provision to reserve one-third of the total seats for women in the Lower House and State Legislative Assemblies.
- The bill was passed with overwhelming support, as 454 Members of Parliament voted in favor of it, while only two MPs opposed it. Speaker Om Birla formally announced the passage of the bill in the lower house.
- The bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the first day of proceedings in the new parliamentary building. Additionally, the old Parliament House in the Lok Sabha was renamed the Samvidhan Sadan.

About Article 243(D)

- Article 243(D) of Part IX of the Constitution mandates the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in all three levels of Panchayats.

- State legislatures are responsible for establishing provisions that reserve the posts of chairpersons in Panchayats for persons belonging to SC and ST communities.
- Article 243(D) also provides that at least one-third of the seats in Panchayats should be reserved for women.
- Additionally, State Legislatures have the power to provide for reservation in favor of backward classes in terms of seats or the post of Speakers.

Additional Information:-

- Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal introduced the 128th Amendment Bill, 2023 to achieve 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies.
- Arjun Ram Meghwal, while introducing the bill, had said that if it is passed, the number of seats reserved for women in the Lok Sabha will increase from 82 to 181.

10. Apurva Chandra unveils 'People's G20' eBook on India's G20 Presidency (Sept. 20, 2023)

Apurva Chandra, serving as Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, presented the eBook titled "People's G20" in New Delhi on September 18, 2023.

An Overview of the News

- The eBook launch event was attended by Manish Desai, Principal Director General, of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), and several senior officials of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and PIB.
- The "People's G20" eBook is a comprehensive resource highlighting India's G20 Presidency.

It is structured into three main sections, each focusing on different aspects:**Part 1: G20 Summit:**

- This section gives details of the mega G20 summit to be held in New Delhi on September 9-10, 2023.
- It clarifies the structure and functioning of the G20 and provides information on the initiatives taken during India's Chairmanship of this international grouping.

Part 2: Working Groups and Meetings:

- The second part presents a brief summary of the meetings held by the various working groups under the Sherpa and Finance tracks.
- Additionally, it includes engagement group gatherings held across the country during the year after India became the G20 Chair.

Part 3: Public Participation Photo Essay:

- The concluding part of the eBook consists of a visual narrative through a photo essay.
- It reflects the mass participation events that took place across the country over the past year, effectively turning India's G20 Presidency into a people-powered movement.