



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 26, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **'Smart District' Project**
- ✓ The UK and Tamil Nadu are collaborating on a smart tech project aimed at sustainable water, waste, and resource management.



- ✓ The project, named 'Smart District Administration using IoT Technologies for Better Quality of Life,' was chosen as part of the Frontier Technology Livestreaming (FTL) program.
- ✓ The UK-supported 'Smart District' project has a goal of tackling global sustainability challenges by deploying sensors throughout the district.
- ✓ These sensors will analyse data patterns, aiding informed decision-making for efficient resource allocation.

STATE

- **Graphene Production Facility**
- ✓ Kerala government has announced a project to establish a graphene production facility, a first-of-its-kind initiative in India.



- ✓ Graphene is a nanomaterial with extraordinary properties and potential applications in various sectors.
- ✓ The facility will operate on a public-private partnership model, with an estimated investment of 237 crore.
- ✓ The project aims to create a graphene ecosystem in the state, fostering innovation and research in material technology.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Sri Lanka announces Free Visas**
- ✓ **Sri Lanka** waived the **visa fees for Indians and tourists from six other countries**, as part of its efforts to boost tourist arrivals and help rebuild the island nation's battered economy following last year's financial crash.



- ✓ India has remained Sri Lanka's top source market for many years. This year, over 2 lakh Indian tourists — constituting 20 percent of the total tourist arrivals — have visited the island nation until September.
- ✓ As part of its decisions, the Cabinet announced the implementation of a pilot project to issue free tourist visas to tourists from **China, India, Russia, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Japan until March 31, 2024.**

APPOINTMENT

- **Actor Rajkumar Rao As Its 'National Icon'**

- ✓ Actor Rajkummar Rao, celebrated for his portrayal of a principled government clerk in the Hindi film “Newton,” tasked with conducting elections in the Naxal-affected areas of Chhattisgarh, is set to be inducted as a National Icon by the Election Commission (EC).



- ✓ Rajkummar Rao’s portrayal in “Newton” resonated with audiences and critics alike. He essayed the character of an **upright government official**, undeterred by the adversities he faced while striving to conduct a free and impartial election in the **Naxal-affected regions of Chhattisgarh**.
 - ✓ The formal induction of Rajkummar Rao as a National Icon of the EC is scheduled for October 26 (Today). Chief Election Commissioner **Rajiv Kumar** will bestow this honor upon the actor, acknowledging his outstanding contribution in promoting the significance of free and fair elections in India.
- **Sadhna Nair**
- ✓ **Air Marshal Sadhna Saxena Nair** took charge as the **Director of General Hospital Services (Armed Forces)**, becoming the first women officer to hold the prestigious post.



- ✓ After the promotional transfer of Sadhna Nair, she became the second woman officer to attain the rank of Air Marshal.
- ✓ Air Marshal Sadhna trained abroad in CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) warfare and in Military Medical Ethics.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ **Ghost Particle Detector, 'Trident'**

- ✓ China is embarking on a groundbreaking endeavor by constructing an immense telescope in the western Pacific Ocean. The primary mission of this massive facility is to detect elusive particles known as “ghost particles” or neutrinos.



- ✓ This ambitious undertaking will result in the world's largest neutrino-detecting telescope.
- ✓ Neutrinos are a type of electron but, like neutrons, they do not have any charge. They are among the most abundant particles in our universe.
- ✓ With trillions of neutrinos passing through at any given second, they are also among the tiniest.
- ✓ Neutrinos were long believed to be massless, until scientists found evidence that they do have a very small mass.

IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ **World Polio Day – October 24**

- ✓ World Polio Day every October 24 highlights global efforts to eliminate polio and the importance of vaccination in protecting children from the disease. On January 13, this year, India completes 12 polio-free years which is considered as a remarkable achievement; the last polio case in India was detected in 2011.



- ✓ World Polio Day is celebrated every year on October 24 to create awareness around the importance of polio vaccination to protect children.
 - ✓ Oral polio vaccine is highly effective in protection from polio.
 - ✓ In the year 1988, there were around 3.5 lakh polio cases worldwide and the World Health Assembly resolved to eradicate the poliovirus.
- **Accession Day – October 26**
- ✓ India's union territory of Jammu and Kashmir celebrates October 26 as a public holiday to commemorate the historic signing of the Instrument of Accession in 1947.



- ✓ This significant document marked the accession of the princely state to India and set the stage for the region's integration into the Indian union.
- ✓ October 26 marks the day when Maharaja Hari Singh took the pivotal step of signing the Instrument of Accession, thereby securing the region's future within the Indian union.
- ✓ It stands as a symbol of unity and solidarity between the region and the rest of India.

