

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 25, 2022

STATES

- **The Maharashtra government - restored the general consent to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate cases in the state**
 - ✓ In this regard, CM Eknath Shinde cleared the proposal of the home department headed by Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis
 - ✓ This reverses the decision of the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government to withdraw the general consent to the CBI to probe cases in the state
 - ✓ On October 21, 2020, the Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government had withdrawn the general consent to the CBI
 - ✓ This was done claiming interference from the central government to intimidate the state government by misusing the agency to settle political scores.
 - ✓ Apart from Maharashtra, eight non-BJP states -- Punjab, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Mizoram and Meghalaya -- have withdrawn this general consent granted to the CBI since 2015
 - ✓ The withdrawal of general consent implies that the central investigating agency has to seek specific permission from the state government for operating in the state
 - ✓ The CBI is governed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act that makes consent of a state government mandatory for conducting investigation in that state
 - ✓ In contrast, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) is governed by its own Act and has jurisdiction across the country

- **On October 23, Karnataka governor Thawarchand Gehlot - gave his assent to the state government's ordinance to increase the quota of the Scheduled Caste (SC) and the Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities**
 - ✓ Accordingly, Scheduled Castes will now get a 17% reservation instead of the existing 15% and the reservation for the Scheduled Tribes will henceforth be 7% from the existing 3%.

- ✓ The ordinance is aimed at providing reservation of seats in educational institutions in Karnataka and for appointments or posts in the services under the state for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
- ✓ The passage of the ordinance was in accordance with the Justice Nagamohan Das committee report
- ✓ On October 20, the Karnataka cabinet approved an ordinance for increasing the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe communities.
- **On October 22, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan - launched the 'Kunjapp', a mobile application to prevent cyber crimes against children in the state.**



- ✓ During the occasion, CM Vijayan also inaugurated the training for the newly appointed Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) members
- ✓ In his address, the CM said the duty of the CWC and JJB members is to ensure the safety and security of the children.
- ✓ Earlier, in August, the Left government had told the state Assembly that the State Women and Child Development Department is developing a mobile app to prevent cyber attacks or crimes against children

NATIONAL

- **The Ministry of Railways – has decided to shut down the Central Organisation for Modernisation of Workshops (COFMOW) from December 1**



- ✓ Henceforth, COFMOW's matters will be handled by the traction and rolling stock division of the railway board.
 - ✓ The decision was taken in line with the recommendation made by the Principal Economic Advisor (PEA), Ministry of Finance on Rationalization of Government Bodies
 - ✓ The Central Organisation for Modernisation of Workshops (COFMOW), founded in 1979, specialises in procurement of specialized machines for Railway and induction of modern workshop technologies.
 - ✓ The company has over the years procured over 22,000 machines to modernise production and maintenance units at a cost of almost Rs 6,300 crore.
 - ✓ In September last year, Sanjeev Sanyal, who was then principal economic advisor and is now part of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, had suggested several mergers and dissolutions in the railways
 - ✓ This is part of a large-scale restructuring of the railways, which has more than 40 corporate undertakings and other institutions
 - ✓ Earlier, the railways decided to shut down Indian Railways Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) a year back.
 - ✓ As part of the Sanyal report, Special Railway Establishment for Strategic and Holistic Advancement (SRESTHA), Lucknow and the Indian Railways Organisation of Alternative Fuel (IROAF) were also shut down
 - ✓ SRESTHA was formed to take up long-term railway research projects requiring technological advancement
 - ✓ The report had also suggested the closure of the Central Organisation for Railway Electrification.
- **The government of India's Mint in Kolkata - has issued a silver coloured souvenir coin to commemorate the ongoing T20 Cricket World Cup 2022.**



- ✓ The metal composition of the souvenir coin is fine silver with 999 purity and it weighs 40 grams.
- ✓ The souvenir is priced at Rs 3,453 and it comes in a boxed package.
- ✓ The in-house designed souvenirs are available at the Mint and on its official website.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Pakistan and China - have decided to launch three new corridors besides the existing China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).**
- ✓ The new corridors seek to strengthen bilateral ties in various sectors, including agriculture, health and science and technology.
- ✓ The three new projects are China-Pakistan Green Corridor (CPGC), China-Pakistan Health Corridor (CPHC) and China-Pakistan Digital Corridor (CPDC),
- ✓ The first will focus on agricultural environment, food security and green development and the second will help Pakistan get efficiency in the medical field, while the third will boost Pakistan's IT industry
- ✓ The formal launching of the projects may take place during the next month's visit of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China who has been invited by Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- ✓ The CPEC is the flagship project of China's ambitious multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- ✓ It connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province
- ✓ India has objected to CPEC as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- ✓ The CPEC was launched in 2015 when President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan.
- ✓ Several energy and infrastructure projects worth billions of dollars have been completed under the project

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Australia - approved the commercial cultivation of the genetically modified Indian mustard species called 'Brassica juncea', which has been modified for herbicide tolerance**
- ✓ This is the first time a genetically modified variety of Indian mustard has received commercial approval anywhere in the world.
- ✓ So far, the canola (*Brassica napus*) is the only genetically modified mustard variety that has been cleared for commercial application
- ✓ Canola is a temperate species of mustard.
- ✓ GM canola has been in cultivation since 1996 in several countries across the world including Canada, the USA, and even in Australia.
- ✓ At present, Indian mustard varieties are commercially cultivated in a very small part of Australia, mainly in Central New South Wales and western Victoria.
- ✓ Though India is a major producer of 'Brassica juncea' variety of mustard, it has been evaluating the biosafety and field efficacy of GM mustard for almost 20 years now.
- ✓ The indigenous GM mustard variety has been developed by Deepak Pental and a team of scientists at University of Delhi and the project was funded entirely by National Dairy Development Board and Department of Biotechnology, India

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

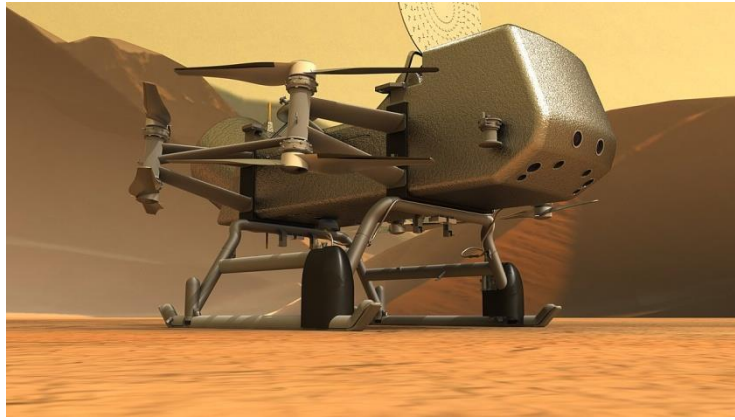
- The 14th edition of the World Spice Congress - is scheduled to be held in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra during February 16 to 18 next year.



- ✓ This biennial event, organized by Spices Board of India (Ministry of Commerce and Industry), is the world's largest exclusive business platform for the spice sector
- ✓ Over 1000 delegates from more than 50 countries are expected to participate in the event.
- ✓ The Regulatory Authorities from major importing countries and Ministry of Trade and Export Promotion agencies of the G20 member countries are expected to participate in the event
- ✓ The next edition will be held as a G20 event on the sidelines of India's G20 presidency for the period December 2022 to November 2023 with more focus on further strengthening India's trade ties with the G20 countries
- ✓ The event will be held under the theme "Vision 2030: SPICES (Sustainability – Productivity – Innovation – Collaboration – Excellence and Safety)"
- ✓ The first edition of the World Spice Congress was held in 1990
- ✓ The Spices Board of India was set up in 1987 under the Spices Board Act, 1986
- ✓ Headquartered in Kochi, Kerala, the Board promotes the production and development of cardamom and the export of other spices mentioned under the Schedule of the Act

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- NASA's Dragonfly rotorcraft - is scheduled to reach the Selk Crater region on Saturn's moon Titan in the year 2034
- ✓ The rotorcraft is scheduled to be launched in 2027 to study Titan – the largest moon of Saturn



- ✓ Titan is an ideal destination to study astrobiology, pre-biological chemistry and the potential habitability of an extraterrestrial world.
- ✓ This is because it is an ocean world dominated by water and ice with a carbon-rich chemistry.
- ✓ The moon has a subsurface ocean of liquid water, methane lakes and rivers on the surface.
- ✓ The spacecraft, weighing less than 1,000 pounds, would be the first aircraft on the Saturn's moon and the first-ever fully controlled atmospheric flight on any moon.
- ✓ It would also be the first aircraft targeting a celestial body in the outer solar system

DEFENCE

- **The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) - is organizing the annual nuclear exercise "Steadfast Noon" in Belgium in northwestern Europe from October 17 to 30**



- ✓ Fourteen of NATO's 30 member countries are taking part in the exercises
- ✓ The bulk of the war games will be held at least 1,000 kilometers from Russia's borders.
- ✓ Around 60 aircrafts including fighter jets and surveillance and refueling planes will take part in the event
- ✓ US long-range B-52 bombers will also take part in the maneuvers

- ✓ The exercises involve fighter jets capable of carrying nuclear warheads, but do not involve any live bombs.
- ✓ The exercises were planned before President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian military action into Ukraine in February
- **The Indian and US militaries - carried out a three-day joint humanitarian assistance exercise “Tiger Triumph 2022” in Visakhapatnam from October 18 to 20, 2022**
- ✓ It is the first tri-services exercise between US and India organized under the aegis of the Integrated Defence Staff headquarters.
- ✓ The Indian Navy is led by Rear Admiral Manish Sharma, Chief Staff Officer (Operations) Headquarters-Eastern Naval Command, while Major General Chris McPhillips, Director, INDOPACOM is leading US delegation
- ✓ Tiger Triumph exercise at Eastern Naval Command was the second exercise between the Indian and US militaries to coordinate disaster relief operations
- ✓ The first exercise was conducted over the course of nine days in November 2019 at Visakhapatnam
- ✓ It featured more than 500 US Marines and sailors and approximately 1,200 Indian sailors, soldiers, and airmen



- ✓ Tiger Triumph exercise is the third instance that the Indian and US militaries have worked together in Visakhapatnam in this year.
- ✓ In February, the US joined India and more than thirty other nations for India’s bi-annual Exercise Milan.
- ✓ In August, the USS Frank Cable visited Visakhapatnam, during which US sailors and their Indian counterparts had joint briefings.
- ✓ In September 2022, the QUAD countries (US, India, Japan, and Australia) signed the “Guidelines for the Quad Partnership on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in the Indo-Pacific”.

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **The RBI - has lifted a three-year ban on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank with effect from October 21, 2022**



- ✓ With this, the ban on 101-year-old Thoothukudi-based Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) on opening new branches has been lifted
- ✓ At present, the bank has 509 branches -- 106 rural, 247 semi-urban, 80 urban and 76 in metropolitan
- ✓ The Bank's shares were listed in the stock exchanges on September 15
- ✓ The Apex Bank took the decision to effect restrictions on the bank in June 2019

SPORTS

- **On October 23, India won silver and a bronze - at the ISSF World Championship Rifle/Pistol at the Egypt International Olympic City (EIOC) Shooting Range in Cairo**



- ✓ The women's 25m pistol team won a silver and the men's 50m rifle 3 positions team bagged a bronze on completion of day 11 of the event
- ✓ With this win, India ended their Paris 2024 Olympics quota quest at two from the championship.
- ✓ There were a total of two quota from the championship, one in men's 10m air rifle and one in men's 50m 3 Positions.
- ✓ At the end of day, India's medal tally now stands at 12 gold, nine silver and 13 bronze medals.
- ✓ The Women's 25m Pistol team comprising Rhythm Sangwan, Manu Bhaker and Abhidnya Ashok Patil lost the decider to the Chinese team

- ✓ In Men's 3P, Aishwary Tomar, Swapnil Kusale and Niraj Kumar bagged Bronze, after Norway won Gold and France Silver.
- **Madhya Pradesh - is all set to host the fifth edition of Khelo India Youth Games from January 31 to February 11 next year**
- ✓ This was announced by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur at an event in New Delhi in presence of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.



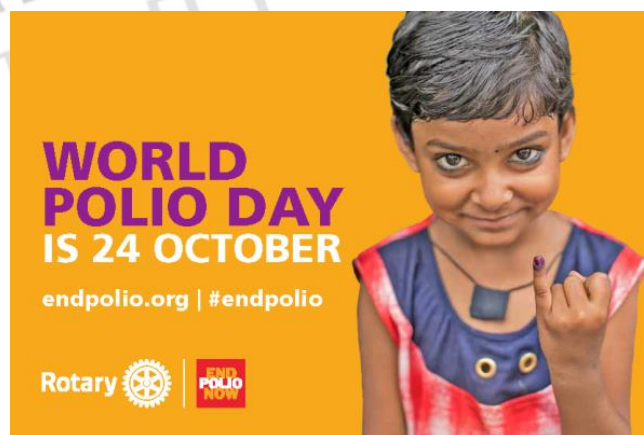
- ✓ More than 8,500 athletes and sportspersons are expected to participate in the sporting event.
- ✓ The sports event will be held in eight cities - Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Mandla, Khargone (Maheshwar) and Balaghat - while Delhi will host cycling events.
- ✓ The upcoming edition of the Games will feature a total of 27 disciplines, including rowing, canoeing, canoe slalom, kayaking, which will make entry for the first time
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh will be the fifth state to host the Khelo India Youth Games.
- ✓ The previous editions were held in New Delhi, Maharashtra, Assam, and Haryana.
- ✓ The 2021 edition was held in Haryana during June 2022 in which Haryana finished ahead of Maharashtra in the medals tally
- ✓ Haryana emerged at the top in the inaugural edition in 2018, while Maharashtra was ranked first in the next two editions in 2019 and 2020
- ✓ Under the Khelo India initiative, Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) and the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) are organized every year
- ✓ In 2019, this event was renamed as Khelo India Youth Games from Khelo India School Games

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **United Nations Day – October 24**
- ✓ The Day is celebrated every year to mark the anniversary of the formation of the United Nations and simultaneously highlighting the importance of world peace and security.



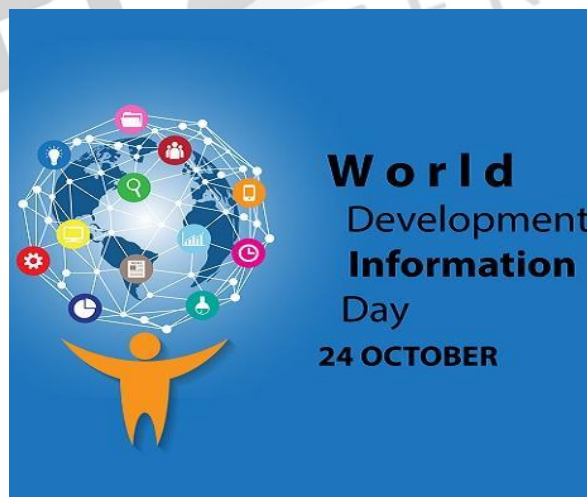
- ✓ The United Nations was commemorated in the year 1945, soon after the Second World War with the support of 51 countries, which has now become 153 countries
 - ✓ The sole aim of the UN was to promote friendly relations among nations and encourage them towards social progress, human rights, and better living standards.
 - ✓ The United Nations was officially formed when a UN charter was approved on October 24, 1945.
 - ✓ The first United Nations Day was observed in the year 1948
 - ✓ Former US President Franklin D Roosevelt coined the name 'United Nations', which was first mentioned in the Declaration of the United Nations on January 1, 1942, at the time of the Second World War.
 - ✓ Theme 2022 - "Building Back Together for Peace and Prosperity"
- **World Polio Day – October 24**



- ✓ World Polio Day is observed every year to raise awareness about the polio vaccination and eradication of polio
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond: A healthier future for mothers and children."
- ✓ World Polio Day was established in 1985 by Rotary International to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who was the lead medical researcher of the team that developed a vaccine against polio.

- ✓ Salk developed the inactivated poliovirus vaccine, which first came into use in 1955.
- ✓ This was further developed as the oral polio vaccine by Albert Sabin, which came into use in 1961
- ✓ Today, the polio vaccines are recommended all over the world, particularly for children under the age of five, who are the most vulnerable to the infection
- ✓ There are two types of vaccines that work effectively against poliovirus, namely inactivated poliovirus (IPV) and oral poliovirus (OPV).
- ✓ Polio (Poliomyelitis) is a contagious, disabling and life-threatening disease caused by the poliovirus.
- ✓ It is transmitted by ingesting contaminated food, water containing faecal matter which carries the deadly virus
- ✓ The virus spreads from person to person and can infect a person's spinal cord, causing paralysis
- ✓ The use of inactivated poliovirus vaccine and succeeding use of live oral poliovirus led to the establishment of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in 1988 by Rotary International along with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF
- ✓ India received polio-free certification together with South-East Asia Region of WHO on 27 March 2014

➤ **World Development Information Day – October 24**



- ✓ The day is observed every year to create awareness about the problems surrounding development in different nations and means to overcome them
- ✓ In 1972, the UN General Assembly established World Development Information Day
- ✓ The day was established to increase international cooperation to solve developmental problems and start improving living standards across the globe
- ✓ The theme for this year's World Development Information Day was not announced

- ✓ Last year, the theme of World Development Information Day was “Action for Sustainable Development Goals”, and in 2020, it was “Information and Communication Technology - New Solutions to Development Challenges.”

➤ **World Statistics Day – October 20**



- ✓ The day is observed to highlight the importance of statistics in everyday life encompassing various fields like healthcare, law, finance, science and education
- ✓ The United Nations Statistical Commission in its 41st session in February 2010 proposed to celebrate October 20 as World Statistics Day
- ✓ The first World Statistics Day, which had the theme "Celebrating the many achievements of official statistics," was observed on 20 October 2010
- ✓ The second edition of the day was celebrated in 2015, with the theme 'Better data, better lives'.
- ✓ The same year, the United Nations General Assembly declared that World Statistics Day would thereafter be celebrated once every 5 years based on a resolution that was agreed upon on June 3, 2015.
- ✓ The third edition of World Statistics Day was observed in 2020 with the theme "Connecting the world with data we can trust"
- ✓ Theme 2022 - 'Data for Sustainable Development.'
- ✓ However, as the day is observed once in every five years, the day will not be observed this year and the next World Statistics Day will be observed only in 2025
- ✓ The planning and coordination of the World Statistics Day campaign have been handled by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic Affairs
- ✓ India celebrates National Statistics Day every year on June 29 in honour of the works and contributions of Professor and Scientist Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis