

Daily Current Affairs

22 October 2024

Intergovernmental Consultations

- **German Chancellor Olaf Scholz** will be on a three-day visit to India from Thursday to attend the **7th Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC)**. The External Affairs Ministry said, that on the 25th of October, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chancellor Scholz will co-chair the Intergovernmental Consultations.



- The **IGC is a whole-of-government framework** under which Ministers from both sides hold discussions in their respective areas of responsibility and report on the outcome of their deliberations to the Prime Minister and Chancellor. Both leaders will **hold bilateral talks to discuss enhanced** security and defence cooperation, deeper economic cooperation, Green and Sustainable Development Partnership and collaboration in the area of emerging and strategic technologies.



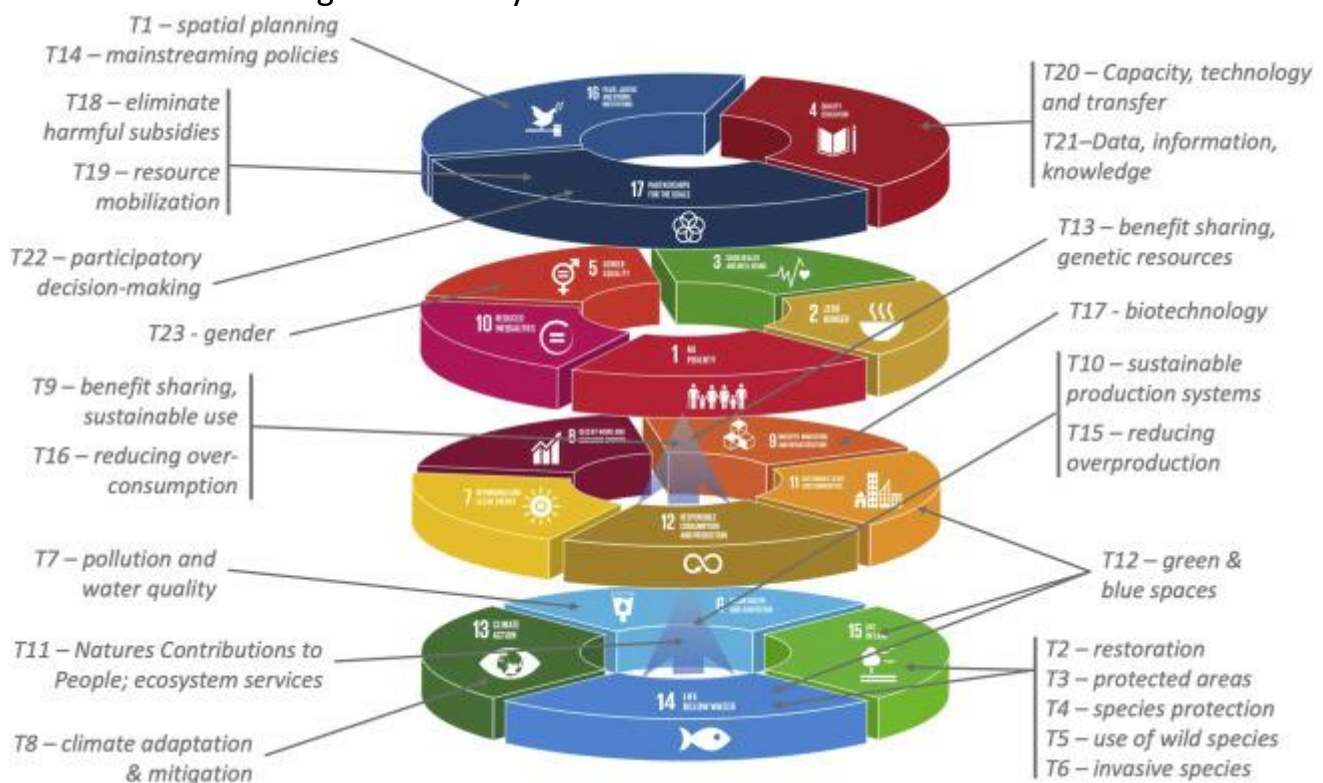
- The Ministry said both leaders will also address the **18th Asia Pacific Conference of German Business (APK 2024)**. The APK, a biennial event for business leaders, executives, and political representatives from Germany and the countries in the Indo-Pacific is expected to give a further fillip to trade and investment ties between the two countries.
- The Ministry informed that about 650 top business leaders and CEOs from Germany, India, and other countries are expected to participate in the event.

COP16 Begins In Colombia

- The two-week **United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP16)** started in Colombia to **assess historic commitments to halt and reverse the loss of nature**. Environmental leaders from nearly 200 countries are expected to participate, where 196 countries signed an ambitious global treaty, the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, to protect biodiversity.



- At COP 16, governments will be tasked with reviewing the state of implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Parties to the Convention are expected to show the alignment of **their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)** with the Framework.
- COP 16 will further develop the monitoring framework and advance resource mobilization for the Global Biodiversity Framework. Among other tasks, COP 16 is also due to **finalize and operationalize the multilateral mechanism** on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources.
- Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary of the **Convention on Biological Diversity** said the outcomes of COP 16 accelerate action at all levels to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity.

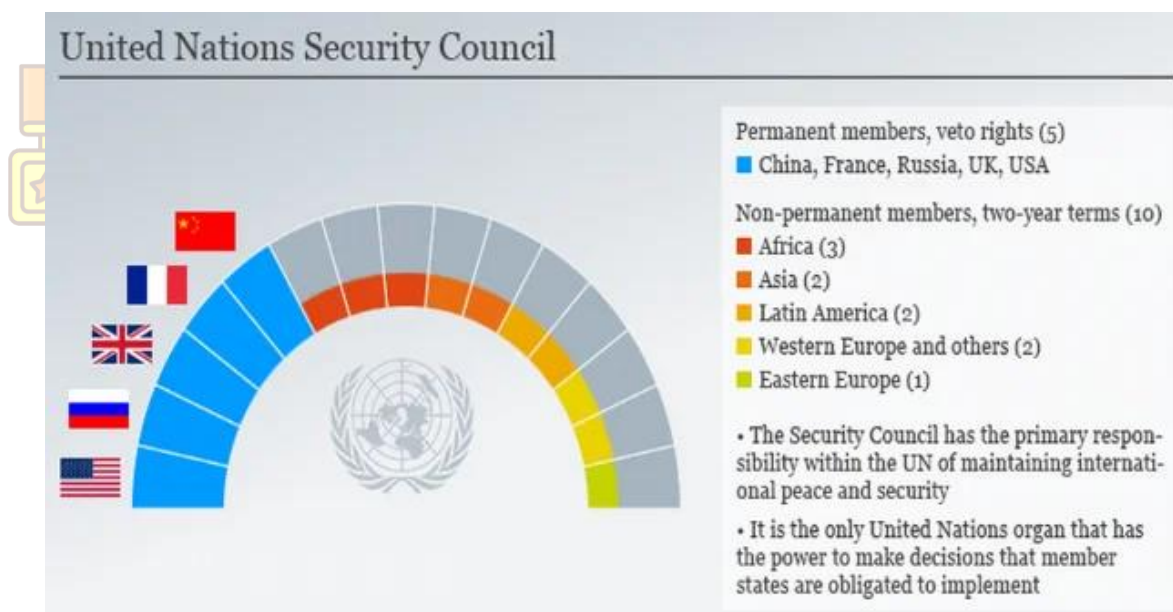


UNSC Permanent Memberships

- **Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov** has said that India, Brazil and African countries should be represented in the UN Security Council (UNSC) on a permanent basis. countries such as India, and Brazil, as well as representatives of Africa, should have been permanently in the Security Council to ensure representation of the global majority.



- At the UN General Assembly's high-level meeting last month, **UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer** also voiced strong support for India's inclusion as a permanent member of a reformed Security Council, along with permanent African representation, Brazil, Japan and Germany and more seats for elected members as well.

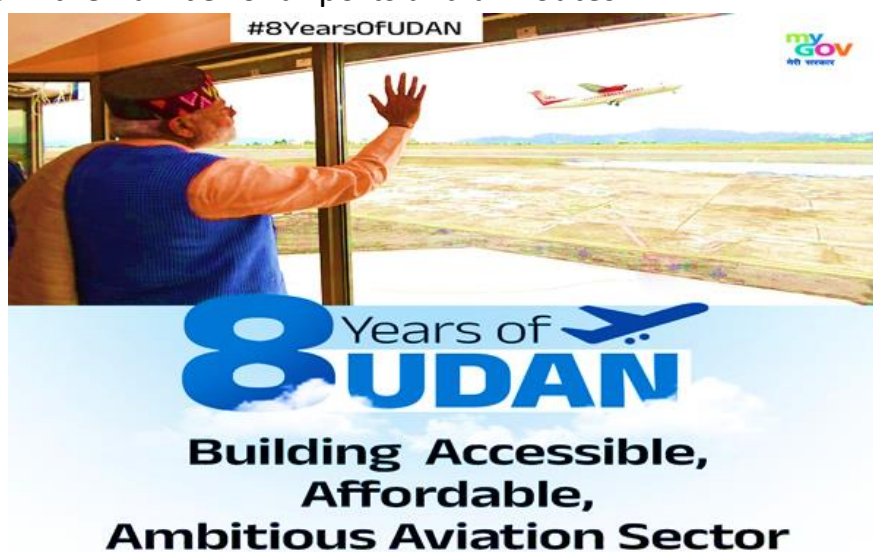


- **Additionally, Chile, France, Micronesia, and Portugal** have also backed India's quest for a permanent seat on the Council. The US and Russia are among the permanent members of the Security Council, which also backs India's bid for a permanent UNSC seat.
- Former British Prime Minister David Cameron joined several global leaders who are battling strongly for India getting a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- He emphasized that the world needs to hear **India's perspective on key global challenges**.



UDAN Scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the **government's UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme** has transformed India's aviation sector. Commemorating the **8th anniversary of the UDAN scheme**, the Prime Minister, in a social media post, said that this scheme has ensured access to flying for crores of people with an increase in the number of airports and air routes.



- At the same time, the scheme has had a major impact on **boosting trade and commerce and** furthering regional growth. Mr Modi said that in the times to come, the **government will continue to strengthen** the aviation sector, focusing on even better connectivity and comfort for the people.
- **Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu** has said that the government is taking proactive steps to enhance security and vigilance mechanisms to effectively deal with the **hoax call menace affecting flight** operations.



- Government is in consultation with stakeholders and that the Civil Aviation Ministry is looking to take legislative actions on hoax calls.
- Government is planning to **amend the Aircraft Security Rules** and the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the **Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982**, and is considering making hoax calls a cognizable offence.
- On the completion of 8 years of the UDAN scheme, the Minister said, the government is envisioning to take the **UDAN scheme forward for 10 years and** planning to **start 50 more airports or enhance** the capacity of existing airports. He said that the RCS UDAN scheme has unlocked opportunities and new growth potential in the country.
- The Minister said that this **scheme has brought new visitors**, investors and development opportunities employing thousands of youngsters. Mr Naidu said

that through this scheme, the government has connected remote regions where the possibility of having an airport or air travel was unimaginable.

- He said that over the last decade, the number of airports in the country has **grown from 74 to 157**.
- Mr Naidu added that **86 new airports have been** broadened and more than two lakh **40 thousand UDAN** flights were operationalised since the inception of the scheme. He said that a total of 601 RCS routes have been made in the country and this year has seen 84 routes go operational.
- The Minister said **that the RCS UDAN scheme** is just not a medium for transporting people from one place to another, but it is about aspirations, opportunities, and new growth potential that we are unlocking in this country.

National Water Awards 2023

- President Droupadi Murmu will confer the **5th National Water Awards 2023** in New Delhi tomorrow. Union Jal Shakti Ministry has announced **38 winners in nine categories** including Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, Best Water User Association and Best Civil Society.



- In the category of **Best State**, the **first prize** has been conferred upon **Odisha**, with Uttar Pradesh securing the second position, and Gujarat and Puducherry jointly securing the third position. Each award winner will be conferred with a citation and a trophy as well as cash prizes in certain categories.
- The Ministry said the government has been undertaking a comprehensive campaign to spread awareness about **water management and water conservation on a national level**.
- The National Water Awards **focus on the good work and efforts** made by individuals and organizations across the country in attaining the government's vision of a Jal Samridh Bharat.

14th Biennial Lake Conference

- The **14th biennial lake conference** took place in Moodbidri from October 17 to 20, 2024. It focused on the theme '**Lake 2024 – wetlands for human wellbeing**'.
- Organized by the **Wetlands Research Group** at the Indian Institute of Science and Alva's Education Foundation, the conference brought into light urgent ecological issues.



- It concluded with strong recommendations for the government to act on **ecologically sensitive areas**. The conference urged the government to notify ecologically sensitive panchayats.

- This aligns with **Section 5(1) of the Environment Protection Act 1986**. The aim is to enhance ecosystem health through conservation practices tailored to specific locations.
- Most **Gram Panchayat Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)** have not been effective since the Biodiversity Act 2002 was enacted. The conference suggested that **zilla panchayats should oversee** these BMCs.
- This oversight is expected to improve ecosystem health and **manage resource flows more effectively**.
- A phased program is recommended, supervised by **State Biodiversity Boards**. This approach aims to enhance the effectiveness of the Biodiversity Act. It seeks to ensure that local committees can better manage biodiversity.
- The conference called for **a new economic metric called Gross Ecosystem Product (GEP)**. This metric would measure Nature's contributions to society. Current indicators like GDP often ignore resource depletion and ecological degradation.

International Research Centre In Dubai By 2025

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** has announced plans to launch its inaugural international flagship centre in Dubai, focusing on research, innovation, and entrepreneurship.
- **Set to open in early 2025**, this initiative aims to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange between India and the UAE. The initiative is a result of an agreement **between IIT Madras and the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET)**.



- The IITM Global Dubai Centre will specialize in advanced fields such as,, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Science, Robotics, Sustainable Energy
- **Objectives** : To create a bridge connecting Dubai with **India's entrepreneurial ecosystem**. To drive research, innovation, intellectual property (IP) licensing, and technology transfer in key priority areas for Dubai.
- It will **enhance research and development (R&D)** and strengthen economic ties between Dubai and India. The initiative is expected to attract top global talent and stimulate the growth of deep-tech startups in Dubai. It aligns with Dubai's goals to enhance its research and innovation capabilities.

National Para-Swimming C'ship

- **Rajasthan's Lakhan Singh** bagged a gold medal in the men's S4 100m freestyle event at the National Para-Swimming Championship in Panaji.
- While **Kamalkant from Odisha** won Silver, **Haryana's Balraj** clinched a bronze medal.



- **Odisha's Narhari** secured a distinguished win in the **S5 100m freestyle**, narrowly beating Andhra Pradesh's Lakshmarao and Bihar's Shams Aalam, who claimed silver and bronze medals.
- Maharashtra's standout, Chaitanya Vishwas, dominated the S6 100m freestyle by winning gold.
- Further, **Karnataka marked a strong presence in the S7 and S8 categories**, with Tejas and Shridhar taking gold. The S9 and S10 categories saw remarkable performances from Karnataka's Sahil Rajaram and Kapil Kumar from the Services, winning golds.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. In Which Year Battle Of Walong, Commemorated By Indian Army, Take Place

- A. 1947
- B. 1956
- C. 1962
- D. 1971

ANSWER: C

2. Which Indian State Aims To Lead Asia In Gaming And Animation Sector, As Highlighted At The Indian Gaming Convention 2024

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Karnataka
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: C

3. Who Was Sworn In As The Chief Minister Of Jammu And Kashmir

- A. Manoj Sinha
- B. Omar Abdullah
- C. Mehbooba Mufti
- D. Ghulam Nabi Azad

ANSWER: B

4. Which Company Awarded Contract To Design India's Indigenous Bullet Trains

- A. Rail Coach Factory
- B. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- C. BEML
- D. Larsen & Toubro

ANSWER: C

5. Which Indian State Has Auctioned 25 Major And 2,280 Minor Mineral Blocks, Granting Letters Of Intent To Leaseholders

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Karnataka
- C. Gujarat
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: C

6. Who Won The Bronze Medal In The Men's 50m Rifle 3-positions Event At The ISSF World Cup Final

- A. Istvan Peni
- B. Akhil Sheoran
- C. Liu Yukun
- D. Simranpreet Kaur

ANSWER: B

7. In Which Airport Was India's First Self-powered Indoor Air Quality Monitoring Facility, Pavana Chitra, Unveiled

- A. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport
- B. Indira Gandhi International Airport
- C. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
- D. Thiruvananthapuram International Airport

ANSWER: D

8. Which Country Has Been Officially Defined As A "Hostile State" In North Korea's New Constitution

- A. Japan
- B. United Kingdom
- C. South Korea
- D. United States

ANSWER: C

9. Which Section Of The Citizenship Act Was Upheld By The Supreme Court In A 4:1 Decision As Part Of The Assam Accord Of 1985

- A. Section 3
- B. Section 5
- C. Section 7A
- D. Section 6A

ANSWER: D

10. Which State's Chief Minister Announced The Renaming Of All Residential Schools As 'Maharshi Valmiki Residential Schools'

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: B

11. In Which Indian State Will Sanskrit Become A Mandatory Subject In 416 Madrasas

- A. Bihar
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: B

12. Who Has Been Recommended As The Next Chief Justice Of India By Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud

- A. Justice B.R. Gavai
- B. Justice Sanjiv Khanna
- C. Justice N.V. Ramana
- D. Justice Arun Mishra

ANSWER: B

13. Which Company Collaborated With Indian Government For The "Scam Se Bacho" Campaign To Combat Online Scams

- A. Google
- B. Microsoft
- C. Meta
- D. Amazon

ANSWER: C

14. Who Won The Emerging Illustrator Category At The Victoria And Albert Museum's Illustration Awards For The Artwork "Marigolds"

- A. Ruchi Sharma
- B. Priya Singh
- C. Aditi Anand
- D. Neha Gupta

ANSWER: C

15. Which Indian State Has Announced Free Dialysis Services For Chronic Kidney Patients In All Government Hospitals

- A. Punjab
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Haryana
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: C

16. Which Institution Is Set To Launch A Global Research Centre In Dubai In 2025

- A. IIT Madras
- B. IIT Delhi
- C. IIT Bombay
- D. IIT Kanpur

ANSWER: A

17. Who Became The First Indian Woman To Score 50 International Goals

- A. Grace Dangmei
- B. Sumati Kumari
- C. Bala Devi
- D. Manisha Kalyan

ANSWER: C

18. Which Organization, Along With The World Bank, Has Committed Funds For Amaravati's Phase-i Development

- A. International Monetary Fund
- B. Asian Development Bank
- C. United Nations Development Programme
- D. European Investment Bank

ANSWER: B

19. Who Recently Won The WR Chess Masters Title, Defeating Maxime Vachier-lagrange In The Final

- A. Vidit Gujrathi
- B. Arjun Erigaisi
- C. R. Praggnanandhaa
- D. Viswanathan Anand

ANSWER: B

20. Who Among The Following Is Associated With Translation Of Rajatarangini In Persian

- A. Dara Shikoh
- B. Zain-ul-Abidin
- C. Abdul Razzaq Jilani
- D. Bande Nawaz

ANSWER: B