

Daily Current Affairs

29 October 2024

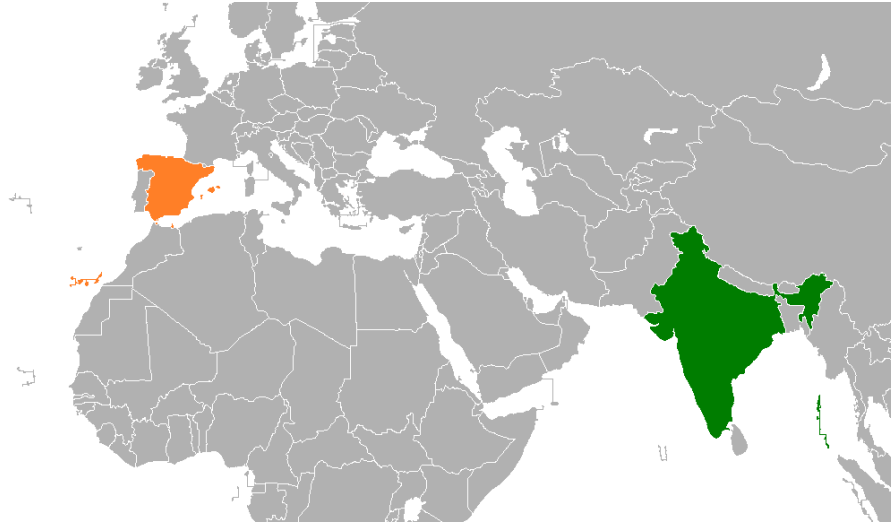
India-Spain

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of the Government of Spain, Mr Pedro Sánchez, discussed a range of bilateral issues during delegation-level talks in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- In a Joint statement, the two leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in **promoting sustainable energy** and adapting to climate change. The two leaders looked forward to the early conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding in the **field of Renewable Energy**.



- Spain has invited India to join the **International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA)**, launched in 2022 to promote actions that reduce countries' vulnerability to drought through preparedness and adaptation measures. Both leaders condemned **terrorism and violent extremism** in all forms, including the use of terrorist proxies and cross-border terrorism.
- They also emphasized the need for **coordinated action against all terrorist groups listed** by the UNSC, including Al Qa'ida, ISIS, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, and Jaish-e-Mohammad.

- To enhance people-to-people ties and consular services in the two countries, the two leaders welcome the operationalisation of **India's first Consulate General in Spain at Barcelona** and the decision to open **Spain's Consulate General in Bengaluru**.

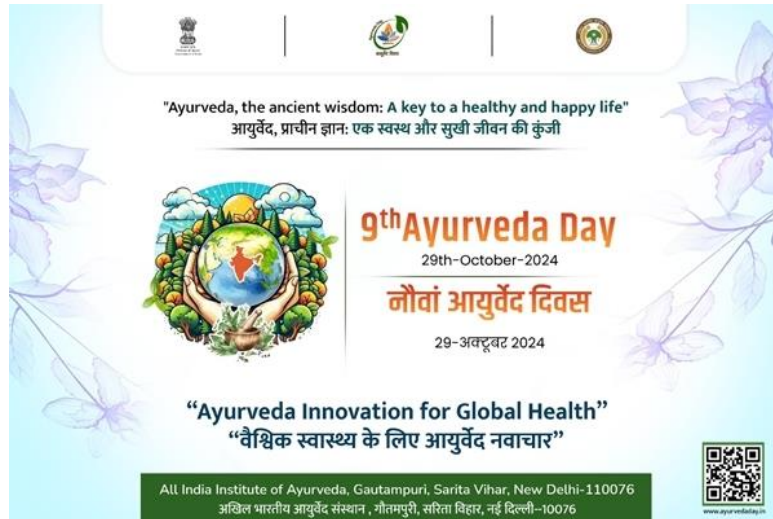


- Prime Minister Modi and President Sanchez reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the **India-EU Strategic Partnership** and to advancing the EU-India triple negotiations of a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, Investment Protection Agreement and Geographical Indications Agreement.
- Briefing the media in Vadodara, Secretary (West) of the Ministry of External Affairs, Tanmaya Lal, said several **MoUs were signed in today's engagement, including those related to** rail transport, customs, finance mechanisms for investment, and cultural exchanges.
- He said that both countries will celebrate the **year 2026 as the Year of Culture, Tourism, and AI**. **Mr. Lal** also informed that bilateral trade between India and Spain has reached 10 billion dollars, and nearly 240 Spanish companies have a presence in India.

Health Coverage To All Senior Citizens

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch, inaugurate, and lay the foundation stone for **multiple projects related to the health sector worth around 12,850 crore rupees in New Delhi** on the occasion of Dhanvantari Jayanti and the 9th Ayurveda Day.
- The Prime Minister will launch the expansion of health coverage to all senior **citizens aged 70 years and above as a major** addition to the Ayushman Bharat

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. This will help provide health coverage to all senior citizens **regardless of their income.**



- In a major boost to healthcare infrastructure, Mr Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for multiple healthcare institutions. He will inaugurate **Phase II of India's First All India Institute of Ayurveda**, which includes a Panchakarma hospital, an Ayurvedic pharmacy for drug manufacturing, a sports medicine unit, a central library, an IT and start-up incubation centre, and a 500-seat auditorium, among others. He will also inaugurate **three medical colleges** in Mandsaur, Neemuch, and Seoni in Madhya Pradesh.
- Furthermore, he will **inaugurate facility and service extensions at various AIIMS** in Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh, Kalyani in West Bengal, Patna in Bihar, Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, Guwahati in Assam, and New Delhi, which will also include a Jan Aushadhi Kendra.
- The Prime Minister will also launch a portal for allied and healthcare professionals and institutes. It will act as a centralised database of existing healthcare professionals and institutes.
- Mr Modi will also launch **several initiatives to strengthen the R&D** and testing infrastructure and improve the country's healthcare ecosystem. The Prime Minister will inaugurate a **Central Drugs Testing Laboratory** in Gothapatna, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- **Dhanvantari was one of the Navratnas of King Vikramaditya (Chandragupta II) of Ujjayini.**
 - The **tradition of keeping Navaratna** in court started from **King Vikramaditya** itself.
 - **Dhanwantari** was a **physician of Ayurveda** in **King Vikramaditya's** court.
 - '**Roga Nidan**', and '**Vaidya Chintamani**', are the famous books of **Lord Dhanvantari**.
 - **Divodasa Dhanvantari** has made enormous contributions to Ayurveda.
 - Though he has not written any Ayurvedic treatise, his teachings could be seen through **Susruta-Samhita**.
 - He was responsible for the division of Ayurvedic surgery into two main branches: **Salyatantra** and **Salakyatantra**.

IUCN's Top Conservation Leadership Award

- Assam-based conservation scientist **Bibhab Kumar Talukdar** has been awarded the prestigious **Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership** by the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Abu Dhabi.



- This honor, awarded during the **5th IUCN SSC Leaders' Meeting**, acknowledges his groundbreaking contributions to species conservation, particularly for Asian rhinos, through both leadership and on-ground initiatives.
- **Talukdar has been an influential conservationist** associated with IUCN SSC since 1991 and became Chair of the **Asian Rhino Specialist Group in 2008**.
- Talukdar has played a pivotal role in organizing **three Asian Rhino States meetings** in Indonesia, India, and Nepal, resulting in a landmark commitment to protect Asian rhino species. He has also been a key driver of the Indian Rhino Vision 2020, which successfully **translocated 22 rhinos to Manas National Park** from 2008 to 2022.
- **Founded in 1989 by Talukdar, Aaranyak** has evolved from a local nature club to a premier biodiversity organization in North East India, employing 200 staff across diverse conservation projects.
- **Under Talukdar's dynamic leadership, Aaranyak** has become a career hub for researchers, biologists, and environmental educators, actively collaborating with forest departments and conservation partners across India.

Salt Typhoon

- A **cyber-espionage operation** allegedly orchestrated by a Chinese hacking group known as "**Salt Typhoon**" has **reportedly** targeted the phone data of former President Donald Trump, his running mate JD Vance, and various Democratic figures, including staff from Vice President Kamala Harris's campaign. Sources indicate that investigators are assessing whether the hackers accessed or monitored any communications data through a sophisticated breach of telecom systems.



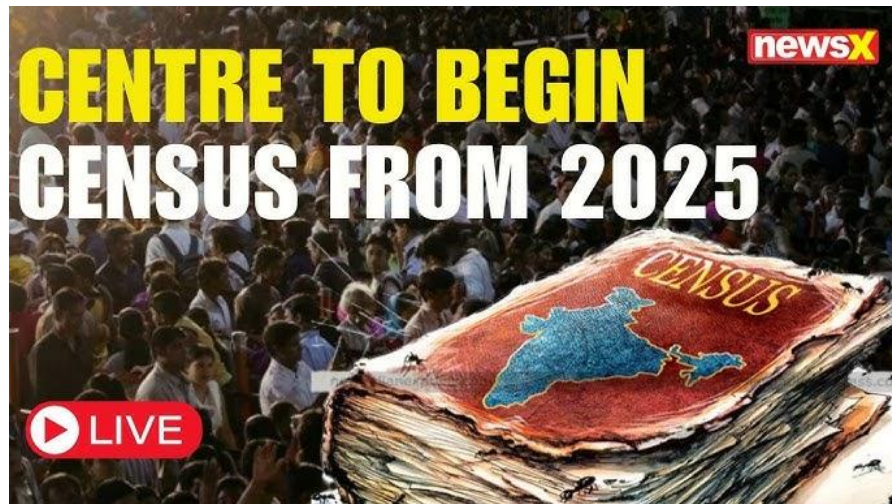
- The Trump campaign was informed about the breach earlier this week, highlighting the **serious implications for national security** amid a contentious election season.
- The cyberattack's scope extends beyond Trump and Vance, with prominent Democrats such as Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer also being targeted.



- The ongoing investigation seeks to determine if the hackers **remain active within Verizon's network**, potentially gathering more intelligence. In a related issue, Trump's campaign has also faced breaches from Iranian hackers linked to the **Basij paramilitary force**, who leaked internal campaign discussions. The U.S. Department of Justice has indicted three Iranian hackers for these actions, emphasizing the ongoing threat of foreign interference in the U.S. electoral process.
- **The FBI and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)** confirmed on October 25 that they are investigating unauthorized access to U.S. telecommunications infrastructure by Chinese-affiliated actors. Both agencies are collaborating to enhance cyber defenses and assist organizations that might be victims of such cyber activities.

Centre To Begin Census From 2025

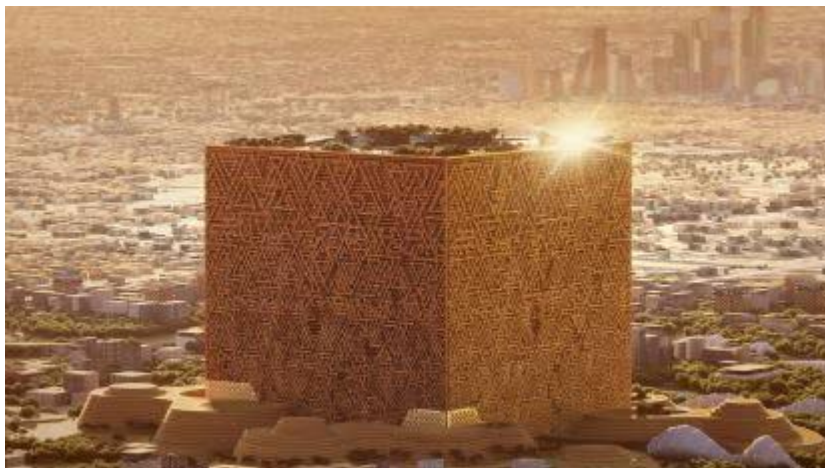
- **Central government is set to commence** the long-awaited census exercise in **2025, aiming for completion by 2026**. This census was originally **scheduled for 2021** but faced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following its completion, the BJP-led government plans to initiate a delimitation exercise for Lok Sabha seats, which is expected to be finalized by 2028.



- **Caste-Based Census Demand:** The Congress-led opposition has been advocating for a caste-based census. However, the government has not yet made any decisions on this matter.
- **Data Collection:** Upcoming census surveys may include inquiries about sub-sects within the General and SC-ST categories, as well as the number of individuals belonging to these groups.

World's Largest Building

- **Saudi Arabia has commenced construction on the Mukaab**, aiming to become the largest building globally. This monumental project is located in Riyadh and represents a **\$50 billion investment**.
- Mukaab will soar to **1,300 feet in height and span 1,200 feet in width**. It will have enough space to house **20 Empire State Buildings**.



- The building will **comprise 104,000 residential units and 9,000 hotel rooms**, creating a vibrant downtown atmosphere. The design prioritizes human

interaction, ensuring that green spaces are **accessible within a 15-minute walk from any location inside** the Mukaab.

- The **New Murabba Development Company** plans to incorporate artificial intelligence to enhance visitor experiences. The exterior will feature massive screens, similar to those found on the Las Vegas Sphere, providing dynamic visual displays.
- The Mukaab's design draws inspiration from **local ecology and traditional architecture**. It will mimic wadis, with winding pathways and smaller adjacent buildings. Its square shape reflects **Najdi architecture**, characterized by mudbrick structures, triangular windows, and central courtyards.



- Mukaab is integral to Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman's **Saudi Vision 2030 initiative**. This initiative aims to diversify the economy and **reduce reliance on oil, promoting tourism and urban development**.
- The Mukaab is expected to contribute over **\$51 billion to Saudi Arabia's non-oil GDP**. It will create around **334,000 jobs, with 900 workers** employed during construction. The project is anticipated to be completed by 2030. The Mukaab is part of several projects in the kingdom.
- These include **Oxagon**, a floating port city, **Trojena**, a mountain tourism site, and **NEOM, a futuristic urban area**. Additionally, the Line project aims to accommodate 9 million residents over 105 miles, powered by renewable energy.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Roga Nidan Book Is Written By

- A. Charaka
- B. Agnivesha
- C. Dhanvantari
- D. Dridbala

ANSWER: C

2. Recently Seen In News Mukaab Building Situated In

- A. Qatar
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. Kuwait
- D. Italy

ANSWER: B

3. Bathukamma Festival Is Mainly Celebrated In Which State

- A. Telangana
- B. Karnataka
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: A

4. Tele-MANAS Initiative Is Associated With Which Field

- A. Agriculture
- B. Mental health
- C. Education
- D. Sports

ANSWER: B

5. Kawal Tiger Reserve Is Located In Which State

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Karnataka
- D. Telangana

ANSWER: D

6. Current Ranking Of Indian Men's Football Team In The Latest FIFA Rankings

- A. 125th
- B. 150th
- C. 100th
- D. 200th

ANSWER: A

7. Which Indian Conglomerate Partnered With Nvidia To Develop AI Infrastructure In India

- A. Tata Group
- B. Infosys
- C. Wipro
- D. Reliance Industries

ANSWER: D

8. Which Country Conducted Its First Maritime Partnership Exercise With India In The Indian Ocean

- A. France
- B. Germany
- C. Poland
- D. Australia

ANSWER: B

9. New Maximum Limit For Mudra Loans Under The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) As Per The Union Budget 2024-25

- A. Rs 12 lakh
- B. Rs 20 lakh
- C. Rs 25 lakh
- D. Rs 15 lakh

ANSWER: B

10. Name Of 7th Anti-submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft Launched

- A. Abhay
- B. Vikrant
- C. Veer
- D. Prahar

ANSWER: A

11. Name Of India's First Foundational AI Model Launched By Hanooman AI

- A. Hanooman Model
- B. INDAI
- C. AI Bharat
- D. Everest 1.0

ANSWER: D

12. Where Was The Asia Clean Energy Summit (ACES) 2024 Held

- A. Singapore
- B. Japan
- C. South Korea
- D. Australia

ANSWER: A

13. Which Country Is Named Cyclone Dana

- A. India
- B. Oman
- C. Qatar
- D. Saudi Arabia

ANSWER: C

14. Which Company Has Officially Dethroned Apple As The World's Most Valuable Company

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

ANSWER: A

15. Which Company Inaugurated Its New India And South Asia Headquarters And Training Centre In The National Capital Region

- A. Boeing
- B. Lockheed Martin
- C. Embraer
- D. Airbus

ANSWER: D

16. Which Two States Recently Signed An Mou To Deploy Trained Elephants (Kumki) For Controlling Elephant Menace

- A. Bihar and Jharkhand
- B. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka
- C. Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh
- D. Gujarat and Rajasthan

ANSWER: B

17. Who Became The First Woman Officer To Serve As The Director-general Of The Armed Forces Medical Services

- A. Parisha Santoshi
- B. Punita Arora
- C. Arti Sarin
- D. Shaliza Dhani

ANSWER: C

18. Which Institution Has Launched A Cyber Commandos Training For Police

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

ANSWER: D

19. Name Of Initiative Launched By Himachal Pradesh To Tackle Drug Trafficking

- A. Navjeevan
- B. Sankalp
- C. Viksit
- D. Nirman

ANSWER: B

20. Who Among Following Was Author Of Abhidhamma Treatise Kathavatthu

- A. Mah-a kassapa
- B. Mahinda
- C. Milinda
- D. Moggaliputta Tissa.

ANSWER: D