

October 21st news:

National issues:

- Foundation for reconstruction projects in Kedarpuri

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the 20th of October laid the foundation stone for a slew of reconstruction projects in Kedarpuri, including renovation of Adi Guru Shankaracharya's tomb which was devastated in the flash floods. The area surrounding the Kedarnath temple was destroyed in June 2013 after the Chorabari Glacier lake breached its embankment following heavy rain that caused flash floods in Mandakini river.

Economy issues

- India, Brazil, South Africa sign IBSA Trust Fund agreement

India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) have signed the IBSA Trust Fund Agreement that seeks to fight poverty in developing countries. The agreement was signed by Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh who led the Indian side at the 8th IBSA trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting in Durban. It is an international tripartite grouping for promoting international cooperation among these countries.

The IBSA Trust Fund brings together the three emerging economies of India, Brazil and South Africa to combat poverty in other developing countries. Each country contributes USD 1 million annually to this fund which is managed by the UN Development Programme's (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

What is IBSA

IBSA Dialogue Forum (India, Brazil, South Africa) is an international tripartite grouping for promoting international cooperation among these countries

There are three main objectives of this forum

South-South Cooperation and greater understanding between three important continents of the developing world namely, Africa, Asia and South America.

The forum provides the three countries with a platform to engage in discussions for cooperation in the field of agriculture, trade, culture, and defence among others.

To become instrumental for promoting ever closer coordination on global issues between three large multicultural and multiracial democracies of Asia, South America and Africa, and to enhance trilateral India-Brazil-South Africa cooperation in sectoral areas.

Environment

- Pollution causes one in four premature deaths in India: Lancet

Environmental pollution — from filthy air to contaminated water — is killing more people every year than all war and violence in the world, more than smoking, hunger or natural disasters. more than AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined.

One out of every six premature deaths in the world in 2015 — about 9 million — could be attributed to disease from toxic exposure, according to a major study released in The Lancet medical journal.

Asia and Africa are the regions putting the most people at risk, the study found, while India tops the list of individual countries.

The financial cost from pollution-related death, sickness and welfare is equally massive, the report says, costing some \$4.6 trillion in annual losses — or about 6.2% of the global economy.

One out of every four premature deaths in India in 2015, or some 2.5 million, was attributed to pollution, the study found. China's environment was the second deadliest, with more than 1.8 million premature deaths, or one in five, blamed on pollution-related illness.

Several other countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, North Korea, South Sudan and Haiti also see nearly a fifth of their premature deaths caused by pollution.

The report marks the first attempt to pull together data on disease and death caused by all forms of pollution combined.

Awards:

- **Schellhuber received Blue Planet Prize**

Environmental scientist Hans Joachim Schellhuber received **Blue Planet Prize**, world's most prestigious award for pioneers in environmental science. He is the second recipient of the Blue Planet Prize. She has been awarded for her research about biodiversity and natural capital. Blue Planet Prize was instituted by Asahi Glass Foundation (an affiliate of Asahi Glass manufacturing company of Japan) in 1992.

What is BLUE PLANET PRIZE

The Blue Planet Prize recognizes outstanding efforts in scientific research or applications of science that contribute to solving global environmental problems.

The prize was created by the Asahi Glass Foundation in 1992, the year of the Rio Earth Summit, and since then the foundation has awarded the prize to two winners every year.

Persons in news:

- **Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar resigned**

Solicitor General of India Ranjit Kumar resigned. He was appointed solicitor general in June 2014 after the Modi government came to power. His second term as solicitor general was renewed recently.

Solicitor General (Polity)

The **Solicitor General of India** is below the Attorney General for India, who is the Indian government's chief legal advisor, and its primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India.

The **Solicitor General of India** is appointed for the period of 3 years.

The **Solicitor General of India** is the secondary law officer of the country, assists the Attorney General, and is himself assisted by several Additional Solicitors General of India.

Unlike the post of Attorney General for India, which is a Constitutional post under Article 76 of the Constitution of India, the posts of the Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitors General are merely statutory. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appoints the Solicitor General. Whereas Attorney General for India is appointed by the President under Article 76(1) of the Constitution, the solicitor general of India is appointed to assist the attorney general along with four additional solicitors general by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.