

October 4th news:

International issues:

- Global Wildlife Programme Conference held in New Delhi

The Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) Conference recently held in New Delhi. The theme of the Conference "Peoples' participation in wildlife conservation". The GWP World-Bank led a global partnership of 19 countries in Asia and Africa to promote the conservation and sustainable development by combating trafficking in wildlife. It was initiated in 2015 by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Unveiled third national wildlife action plan: India unveiled the third National Wildlife Action Plan for 2017-2031 on 2nd October spelling out the future road map for wildlife conservation.

- The third action plan comes after the first plan in 1983 and second from 2002 till 2016.
- The third National Wildlife Action Plan is unique as this is the first time India has recognised the concerns relating to climate change impact on wildlife and stressed on integrating actions that need to be taken for its mitigation and adaptation into wildlife management planning processes.
- The government has also underlined an increased role of private sector in wildlife conservation. The plan lays down that the Centre would ensure that adequate and sustained funding including Corporate Social Responsibility funds are made available for the National Wildlife Action Plan implementation

- Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi stripped of Oxford honour

An honour granting Aung San Suu Kyi the Freedom of Oxford will be withdrawn by the city council because of her response to the Rohingya crisis. The de facto leader of Myanmar was granted the honour in 1997 for her "long struggle for democracy".

But a motion, backed by Oxford City Council, said it was no longer appropriate for her to hold it.

More than half a million Rohingya Muslims have fled Myanmar to Bangladesh following recent violence.

The trouble erupted on 25 August when Rohingya militants attacked security posts, triggering a military crackdown.

Ms Suu Kyi spent years under house arrest in Rangoon as a campaigner for democracy while Myanmar (formerly Burma) was ruled by a military dictatorship.

She became a worldwide figurehead for freedom before leading her National League for Democracy party to victory in open elections in November 2015

The granting of the Freedom of the City of Oxford is awarded under two categories: Persons of distinction; and Persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the city.

National issues:

- Venkaiah Naidu lays foundation stone for National Waterway-4

Vice president Venkaiah Naidu on 3rd October laid the foundation stone for the first phase of the 2,890-km National Waterway-4 (NW-4) at Amravati in Andhra Pradesh. The first phase involves development of a water channel from Muktyala to Vijayawada on Krishna river along with four floating terminals and three fixed terminals to handle cargo operations.

The inland waterway was declared National Waterway-4 in November, 2008 with a total length of 1,078 km. Under the National Waterway Act, 2016, this was increased to 2,890 km.

The NW-4 would be developed in three phases.

- In the first phase, the 82 km stretch from Muktyala to Vijayawada will be developed.
- This would be followed by the second phase where 233 km will be developed from Vijayawada to Kakinada and Rajahmundry to Polavaram on Godavari river.
- The third phase will connect Commamur canal, Buckingham canal and the balance stretches of river Krishna and Godavari across 573 km.

- Ministry of Health ranks first in Swachh Bharat initiative

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been adjudged as the best department for its contribution during 'Swachhta Pakhwada', an inter-ministry initiative of the Swachh Bharat Mission. The Ministry observed the Swachhta Pakhwada from February 1-15. The award was presented on the third anniversary of the Mission on October 2. Health Secretary C. K. Mishra received the award on behalf of the Ministry.

- Foundation stone laid for AIIMS, IIIT in Himachal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the **All India Medical Science (AIIMS) Bilaspur** and IIIT Una from Luhnu Indoor stadium in Bilaspur town of Himachal Pradesh.

The 750-bed hospital is to be built at a cost of about Rs 1350 crore and in addition to health care provide medical education at the undergraduate and post-graduate level, besides nursing.

Similarly, the Indian Institute of Information Technology will be constructed at Saloh in Una district with the cost of **128 crore rupees**.

The Steel Processing Unit situated in Kandrori of Kangra district has been set up with nearly 70 crore rupees, will produce one lakh tones TMT bars of 8 to 25 millimeter annually.

- **Meenakshi Temple Named Best 'Swachh Iconic Place' in India**

The Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple awarded as best '**Swachh Iconic Place**' in India.

Madurai District Collector K. Veera Raghava Rao and Corporation Commissioner S. Aneesh Sekhar will receive the award from Uma Bharati, the Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation.

A total of 63 compact bins have been placed and four compactor trucks do the rounds around the temple premises. There are 25 e-toilets and 15 water ATMs for tourists to use.

Bilateral issues:

India and Nepal to Conduct First Joint Tiger Count

For the first time, Nepal and India will undertake a joint tiger census in their national parks, forests and protected areas adjoining the two countries using a globally-recognized method. The counting of tigers will begin from the second week of November. Tiger is an endangered animal listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Economy issues:

- **Government cuts basic excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 2**

The government has cut excise duties on petrol and diesel by Rs 2 per litre with effect from 4th October, taking an annual hit of Rs 26,000 crore in tax revenue to cushion consumers from soaring fuel prices that have hit an all-time high in Delhi.

The duty cut, applicable on branded and unbranded petrol and diesel, would lead to a revenue loss of about Rs 13,000 crore in the remaining part of the current fiscal year

Indian fuel prices are linked to those prevailing in the international market. The prices are revised daily and are the average of the preceding 15 days' international rates. Taxes make up nearly half of retail prices

- **Infrastructure sector growth rises to 4.9% in Aug; highest in 5 months**

Helped by robust performance of the coal and electricity sectors, the country's infrastructure sector grew at a five-month high of four point nine per cent in August this year. The infrastructure sector had grown 3.1 per cent in August last year, and 2.6 per cent in July this year.

Official data released on 3rd October showed that production of coal spurted 15.3 percent in August, output of natural gas increased 4.2 percent, and electricity generation jumped 10.3 per cent during the month. Refinery production grew 2.4 percent in August, and steel output grew 3 per cent. But crude oil, fertiliser and cement recorded negative growth in the month under review