

Current Affairs : October 29, 2024

India-Spain Relations



PM Narendra Modi and Spanish PM Pedro Sánchez met in Vadodara to enhance bilateral cooperation, especially in renewable energy and combating terrorism. Agreements were reached in areas like rail transport, customs, and cultural exchanges. India will celebrate 2026 as the Year of Culture, Tourism, and AI.

- **Ayushman Bharat Expansion**:



PM Modi announced health coverage for all senior citizens over 70 years during Dhanvantari Jayanti. Multiple projects worth ₹12,850 crore will be launched, including new medical colleges and expanded facilities at AIIMS.

Conservation Recognition

- **Award to Bibhab Kumar Talukdar**:



The conservation scientist received the Harry Messel Award for his contributions to species conservation, particularly for Asian rhinos.

Cybersecurity Incident

- ****Salt Typhoon****



A Chinese hacking group reportedly targeted phone data of prominent U.S. political figures, raising concerns about national security amid election tensions.

Census Announcement

- ****Upcoming Census****:

Starting Early 2025
Centre looking to complete census by 2026
Census to change future cycles completely
Decision on caste census 'to be taken at top level'
Registrar General holding consultations with stakeholders & state govts, around 30 questions prepared for citizens
Govt contemplating conducting delimitation following census which would require Constitution amendment
BJP allies have demanded caste census as govt is still finalising modalities

Several southern states apprehensive over possibility of losing out on Lok Sabha seats

Country's population count conducted every 10 years since 1951

Last census was in 2011, 2021
Census delayed due to COVID-19

The Indian government plans to conduct a census in 2025, which was delayed from 2021 due to the pandemic.

Saudi Arabia's Mukaab Project



- ****Largest Building Plans****: Construction of the Mukaab in Riyadh has started, expected to be the largest building globally, featuring residential units and advanced design focused on human interaction.

Plutus Academy