



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

5th National Water Awards for 2023

The Ministry of Jal Shakti has announced the commencement of the 5th [National Water Awards \(NWA\) for 2023](#), aiming to **recognize and encourage outstanding efforts** in the field of water conservation and management.

- The NWA were introduced in 2018. The first distribution ceremony was held in 2019.
- **Award Categories:**
 - 'Best State,' 'Best District,' 'Best Village Panchayat,' 'Best Urban Local Body,' 'Best School/College,' 'Best Institution (other than school/college),' 'Best Industry,' 'Best Civil Society,' 'Best Water User Association,' and 'Best Individual for excellence.'
- **Prizes and Recognition:**
 - Winners in the categories of 'Best State' and 'Best District' will receive a **trophy and citation**.

Read more: [National Water Awards \(NWA\)](#)

RITES Ltd, and IRCON Awarded Navratna Status

The Ministry of Finance has conferred the esteemed ['Navratna' status](#) upon two Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) under the **Ministry of Railways, Ircon International Limited (IRCON) and RITES Ltd (RITES)**.

- Navratna Companies in India are a group of **CPSEs that have enhanced financial autonomy** and flexibility to compete in the global market. They are given certain privileges, such as **investing up to Rs 1,000 crore without explicit government approval**.
- The **Navratna status was first introduced in 1997**. There are currently 16 Navratna Companies in India.
 - To attain Navratna status, a firm must initially hold the **Miniratna designation** and it needs to achieve a score of **60 or more (out of 100) according to six performance criteria**, which include metrics like Net Profit to Net Worth, Earnings per Share, and Inter-Sectoral Performance.

Read more: [Sectors of Indian Economy](#)

World Spine Day 2023

Every year on **October 16th**, **World Spine Day (WSD)** raises awareness about **spine health**.

- **Theme for 2023:** "Move Your Spine", which emphasizes the role of physical activity and movement in preventing and managing spinal pain and disability.
- WSD was initiated in **2008 by the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC)**, which coordinates the event in collaboration with various organizations around the world.
 - The purpose of WSD is to educate people about the causes, prevention, and treatment of spinal disorders, and to **encourage them to take care of their spines**.

Read more: [Multiple Sclerosis](#)

World White Cane Day

World White Cane Day is observed **globally on 15th October** aimed at promoting accessibility and inclusion for **individuals with disabilities**, particularly the visually impaired.

- Also known as White Cane Safety Day, the day was first recognised in **1964** in the United States by **President Lyndon B Johnson**.
- A white cane is a **navigation or identification aid** for people living with sight loss. It is a powerful symbol for visually impaired individuals, representing **independence, mobility, freedom, and confidence**.

Read more: [Person with Disabilities in India](#)

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