

Mains Exam Practice (MEP): Questions of the Day

1. What is the Saat Nischay scheme? Explain its key components and critically analyze its role in the socio-economic development of Bihar. [BPSC General Studies II Section II: 38 marks].
2. What is the Jeevika Didi initiative? Explain its objectives and analyze its role in promoting women's empowerment and socio-economic development in Bihar. [BPSC General Studies II Section II: 38 Marks]

Bihar Special

85th All India Presiding Officers Conference

Why in the news?

The 85th session of the All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) will be organized in Patna in Bihar on the 20th and 21st January 2025.

- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will chair the conference and Bihar Legislature will Co-host.

➤ 54 Presiding officers which includes Speakers, Chairman of the Legislative Houses will participate in the conference and 31 secretaries of the state legislatures will take part in the conference. 60 officials from Lok Sabha and Seven from Rajya Sabha will attend the apex body meeting

- ❖ The theme of the two-day programme is based on the 75th glorious journey of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ The conference will discuss the contribution of Parliament and state legislatures in the empowerment of constitutional values in the context of the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution.

About the AIPOC:

- ❖ It is the apex body of the Legislatures in India which is a platform for sharing best practices and innovative ideas among all legislative assemblies and councils under the guidance of Lok Sabha.
- ❖ The conference is being organised in Bihar after a long hiatus of 43 years, which was organised last time in 1982. This is the third time that Bihar is hosting AIPOC in Patna.

National Affairs

Mission Mausam

Why in the news?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Mission Mausam' on 14th January 2025.

- ❖ It was launched as part of the celebrations marking the **150th Foundation Day** of the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- ❖ Objective: Making India a weather-ready and climate-smart nation.
- ❖ Advantages:
 - It is expected to benefit a wide array of sectors, including agriculture, disaster management, defence, aviation, energy, and health.
 - Additionally, it will support data-driven decision-making in urban planning, transport, and environmental monitoring.

About the Mission:

- ❖ It was approved by the Union Cabinet in September 2024, with a budget of Rs 2,000 crore over two years.

- ❖ The project will primarily be implemented by the India Meteorological Department, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, and the National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting.
- ❖ It focuses on enhancing atmospheric observations with next-generation radars, satellites, and high-performance computers while improving the understanding of weather and climate processes.
- ❖ The mission will also provide critical air quality data to aid long-term weather management and intervention strategies.

India Meteorological Department

- ❖ It is India's national meteorological service. It was established in 1875 by the Government of India.
- ❖ IMD's headquarters are located at Mausam Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ❖ It functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.



Environment And Geography

Sonamarg Tunnel

Why in the news?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and dedicated the prestigious Sonamarg Tunnel to the nation, in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on **13th January 2025**.

- ❖ The work on the tunnel project began in **May 2015** and was completed in **2024**..

About the tunnel:

- ❖ It will significantly reduce the travel time to just **20-25 minutes** between Gagangeer and Sonamarg in Ganderbal district.
- ❖ It is equipped with cutting-edge technologies that provide real-time updates and seamless connectivity for users.
- ❖ **Significance:**
 - The opening of the tunnel is a major step towards making the Ladakh region accessible by road throughout the year.
 - This engineering marvel is poised to unlock the full potential of the region's trade and tourism sectors.



- The tunnel will boost domestic and international tourism in Sonamarg while providing all-weather connectivity between Sonamarg and Gagangeer that leads to the approach road towards under construction Zojila tunnel.
- This will increase socio-economic development throughout the region including Kargil and Leh districts.

Sports

1st edition of Kho Kho World Cup

Why in the news?

The first edition of the Kho Kho World Cup **2025** was officially inaugurated in a grand ceremony at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi on **13th January 2025**.

- ❖ Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, alongside Indian Olympic Association President P. T. Usha and Kho Kho Federation of India President Sudhanshu Mittal lit the ceremonial torch of the Kho Kho World Cup **2025**.



- ❖ It symbolizes the spirit of sportsmanship, unity, and the global celebration of India's traditional sport.
- ❖ The historic event marked the global debut of the traditional Indian sport, with teams from 20 countries participating.
- ❖ The Kho-Kho Federation of India has selected 15-member squads for both the men's and women's categories.
- ❖ Prateek Waikar has been named captain of the men's team, while Priyanka Ingle will lead the women's team.

Important Days/ Dates

Armed Forces Veterans Day

Why in the news?

Armed Forces Veterans Day is celebrated every year on January 14.

❖ Objective:

- To honour the invaluable contributions of veterans who dedicated the prime of their lives to serving the nation and to commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend the country.

❖ Why is it celebrated on 14th January?

- To mark the retirement of Field Marshal KM Cariappa, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief who led the Indian Army to victory in the 1947 war.



News in Short

- ❖ Odisha became the 34th state to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- ❖ The field evaluation trials of the indigenously developed third-generation Anti-Tank Fire-and-Forget Guided Missile NAG MK 2 were successfully conducted at Pokhran Field Range in Rajasthan.



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