

Bihar Special

Mahi Swetraj

Why in the news?

Patna's Mahi wins two gold medals in the national swimming competition.

- ❖ Mahi Swetraj created history by winning two gold medals in the 77th National Senior Swimming Competition organized by the Swimming Federation of India.
- ❖ She achieved this feat in the 50 m butterfly and 100 m butterfly competitions in Mangalore, Karnataka.
- ❖ Bihar State Sports Authority Director General Ravindran Shankar said that Mahi is the first swimmer from Bihar who has won a medal in the national senior swimming competition.

Medicine Storage Centers Under the National Health Mission

Why in the news?

85 lakhs will be spent on the construction of a medicine storage center.

- ❖ **Objective:** Establish medicine storage centers to enhance the availability of free medicines in government hospitals.

Main Features:

Phased Implementation:

- ❖ **Phase 1:** Centers will be set up in 20 districts.
- ❖ **Phase 2:** Centers will be established in 7 remaining districts.

Funding:

- ❖ **Total cost per center:** ₹85 lakhs.
- ❖ **Current allocation:** ₹17 crore for financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Location and Space Requirements:

- ❖ **Site Selection:** Centers will be located in Sadar Hospitals or Civil Surgeon Offices.
- ❖ **Minimum space requirement:** 8,000 square feet.

Districts in Phase 1: Aurangabad, Banka, Bhagalpur, East Champaran, Kaimur, Lakhisarai, Madhepura, Madhubani, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Nawada, Purnia, Rohtas, Saharsa, Samastipur, Saran, Sitamarhi, Siwan, Supaul.

Districts in Phase 2: Patna, Darbhanga, Araria, Buxar, Sheikhpura, Gaya, West Champaran.

Medicine Supply: Bihar Health Services Infrastructure Corporation supplies most of the medicines to these centers.



Skill development centers

Why in the news?

Skill development centers will be opened in all the blocks of the state.

- ❖ Address the lack of skill development centers in certain blocks and provide vocational training to youth.

Training Center Gaps:

- ❖ No skill development centers in about 30 blocks, including those in Rohtas, Gaya, Jamui, Arwal, and Champaran districts.

Training Program Details:

- ❖ Total training duration- 240 hours.

Components:

- ❖ Language and communication skills: 80 hours.
- ❖ Basic computer knowledge: 120 hours.
- ❖ Behavioral skills: 40 hours.
- ❖ Training Partners: Bihar Skill Development Mission collaborates with 16 partner departments and 2,500 training centers.

Achievements:

Enrollment and Certification:

- ❖ 31 lakh youth enrolled in training programs.
- ❖ 22.5 lakh successfully certified.

Employment Outcomes: 3 lakh trainees secured employment post-training.

Women's Participation: 45% of trainees are women, indicating strong female involvement in the programs.

Economy

Trade Connect e-platform

Why in the news?

Recently the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry launched the Trade Connect e-platform to help Indian exporters, MSMEs and entrepreneurs.

- ❖ Trade Connect ePlatform will connect Indian Exporters, MSMEs and Entrepreneurs with various stakeholders including Indian Missions Abroad, Export Promotion Councils, and other Partner Government Agencies.
- ❖ **Objective:** Provide comprehensive support to Indian exporters by offering trade-related information, guidance, and tools.

Main Features:

- ❖ **Trade Information and Guidance:**
 - Provides global demand data, country-wise trade info, and market access conditions.
 - Guides exporters on international standards, compliance, and connections with global buyers.
 - Offers support for Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including documentation for preferential tariffs.
- ❖ **Certificate of Origin:**
 - Exporters can apply for a certificate of origin for exports to FTA partner countries.
- ❖ **Country Guide:**
 - Lists export opportunities, rules, and tariffs for various countries.

- ❖ **Public Webpage for Exporters:**
 - Indian exporters, especially “status holders” identified by the Department of Commerce, can create public profiles and showcase their products to a global audience.
- ❖ **Expert Assistance:**
 - Exporters can query officials and experts (over 180 officials from Indian missions abroad and over 600 Export Promotion Council officials) on trade-related topics.
 - Covers export-import regulations, finance, insurance, trade disputes, logistics, and foreign market opportunities.
- ❖ **Training and Skill Development:**
 - Hosts training materials to enhance strategies and skills in international trade.

Implementation and Collaboration:

- ❖ **Main Partners:**
 - Developed in collaboration with the Ministry of MSME, EXIM Bank, TCS, Department of Financial Services (DFS), and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

❖ **Future Enhancements:**

- Second version planned for 2025, based on stakeholder feedback.
- Will expand to include services like banking, insurance, and logistics.
- Platform will be available in other official languages in future.

❖ **Launch Context:**

- Platform connects over 6 lakh IEC holders, 180 Indian mission officials, 600 Export Promotion Council officials, and officials from DGFT and Department of Commerce.

Environment And Geography

Mission Mausam

Why in the news?

The Union Cabinet has approved the launch of 'Mission Mausam,' a two-year initiative to enhance India's capacity to cope with extreme weather and climate challenges.

- ❖ **Financial Outlay:** ₹2,000 crore, will be implemented under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

- ❖ **Objective:** Strengthen India's weather preparedness and resilience to climate change through advanced research and improved climate science capabilities.

Beneficiaries:

- ❖ Key sectors benefiting from the mission:
 - Agriculture, Disaster Management, Defence, Aviation, Water resources, Power, Tourism and Health.
- ❖ Supports data-driven decision-making in urban planning, transport, offshore operations, and environmental monitoring.

Leading Institutions:

- ❖ **Key Implementers:**

- India Meteorological Department
- Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology
- National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting
- Collaboration with national and international organizations, industry leaders, and academic institutions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.



Schemes In News

PM Electric Drive Scheme

Why in the news?

The Union Cabinet approved a scheme to provide for the procurement of e-buses as well as for setting up more than 72,000 charging stations for vehicle batteries.

- ❖ **Objective:** Promote the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and expand charging infrastructure to address 'range anxiety' and boost EV adoption.
- ❖ **Scheme Outlay:** ₹10,900 crore over two years.

Targeted Support:

- ❖ Subsidies/demand incentives of ₹3,679 crore for e-two wheelers (e-2Ws), e-three wheelers (e-3Ws), e-ambulances, and e-trucks.

Support: The scheme will support 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, and 14,028 e-buses.

E-Bus Procurement:

- ❖ **Earmarked Amount:** ₹4,391 crore for the procurement of 14,028 e-buses.
- ❖ **Target Cities:** Nine cities with populations over 40 lakh—Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Surat, Bangalore, Pune, and Hyderabad.
- ❖ **Intercity/Interstate Support:** Intercity and interstate e-buses are supported in collaboration with states.

E-Truck and E-Ambulance Incentives:

- ❖ **Incentives:** ₹1,000 crore for purchase of e-trucks and e-ambulances.

Charging Infrastructure:

- ❖ **Total Allocation:** ₹2,000 crore for setting up electric public charging stations.

Charging Stations:

- ❖ 22,100 fast chargers for e-four wheelers (e-4Ws)
- ❖ 1,800 fast chargers for e-buses
- ❖ 48,400 fast chargers for e-2Ws and e-3Ws

Charge booster

PM E-Drive scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet, aims to address range anxiety among EV buyers

■ Scheme, valid for two years, will support 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, 14,028 e-buses

■ ₹4,391 cr. for procurement of 14,028 e-buses by State transport undertakings of 9 cities

■ ₹2,000 cr. to set up charging stations in cities with high EV penetration and on some select highways



Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV (PMGSY-IV)

Why in the news?

The Union Cabinet approved a proposal by the Department of Rural Development for implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV.

- ❖ **Objective:** Improve rural connectivity by constructing all-weather roads and upgrading bridges in unconnected habitations.

Main Features:

- ❖ **Scheme Duration:** 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- ❖ **Total Outlay:** ₹70,125 crore.
- ❖ **Central share:** ₹49,087.50 crore.
- ❖ **State share:** ₹21,037.50 crore.

Road and Bridge Construction:

- ❖ **Target:** Construction of 62,500 km of roads.
- ❖ Link 25,000 unconnected habitations.
- ❖ Upgrade and construct bridges along new roads.

Coverage Criteria:

Eligible Habitations:

- ❖ Population over 500 in plains.
- ❖ Population over 250 in Northeast, hill states, Union Territories, and special category areas.
- ❖ Population over 100 in Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected districts.

Census Reference: Based on Census 2011 data.

Miscellaneous

PM Modi's Tribute to Swami Vivekananda's Chicago Speech

Why in the news?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi remembers Swami Vivekanand on the 132nd anniversary of the Chicago speech delivered by Swami Vivekananda in 1893.

- ❖ PM Modi highlighted that Vivekananda introduced India's timeless message of unity, peace, and brotherhood, which continues to inspire generations.

News in Short

- ❖ Dronacharya award-winning table tennis coach Jayanta Pushilal passed away in Kolkata.
- ❖ Mexico becomes the first country to approve the popular election of judges.
- ❖ The Drug Controller General of India has approved a new eye drop PresVu. It was developed to reduce dependency on reading glasses for individuals affected by presbyopia.

- ❖ The Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) has notified the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) as a public financial institution under Company law.
- ❖ Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan has said that a Tribal University with 80 percent reservation for students from tribal communities will be set up in Nashik.
- ❖ Prashanti Ram, an Indian-origin lecturer at Nanyang Technological University (University in Singapore), won the Singapore Literary Award for English Fiction for her short story - 'Nine Yard Saree' and it was her first work which was published in the year 2023.



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