

Bihar Special

Youth Climate Conclave

Why in the news?

On July 11, 2024, in observance of World Population Day, a youth conclave titled "Future Guardians of Bihar: Youth Climate Conclave" was organized in Patna by the Centre for Climate Resilience, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Research and Education at CIMP, in collaboration with UNICEF Bihar.

- ❖ **Program Theme:** The theme of the conclave was "Future Guardians of Bihar: Youth Climate Conclave."
- ❖ **UNICEF's Milestone:** According to Margaret Gwada, the State Head of UNICEF Bihar, this year marks the 75th anniversary of UNICEF in India. As per the UNICEF Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI), India ranks 26th out of 163 countries.

Key Highlights:

- ❖ **Green Budget Initiative:** Vandana Preyashi, Secretary of the Department of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, mentioned that Bihar is the first state in India to implement a Green Budget.

- ❖ **Afforestation Goals:** The department planted four crore trees in the last fiscal year and aims to plant 4.5 crore trees this year.
- ❖ **Urban Greenery:** Urban greenery is being enhanced through the establishment of 'Nagar Van' parks or green parks.

Biodiversity Park Development

Why in the news?

Minister of State Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Dr. Prem Kumar announced a plan to develop a biodiversity park along Marine Drive in the capital Patna.

- ❖ **Wildlife and Conservation Efforts**
- ❖ **Valmikinagar Female Elephant:** Arrangements are being made to bring a female elephant to Valmikinagar from Kolkata and Reliance Sanctuary through an exchange model.

IIT Roorkee to Guide Bridge Maintenance in Bihar

Why in the news?

- ❖ IIT Roorkee will determine how bridges in Bihar should be maintained and estimate the associated costs.

Agreement and Study

- ❖ **MoU Signed:** An agreement has been signed between IIT Roorkee and the Bridge Construction Corporation.
- ❖ **Bridge Study:** IIT experts recently studied six bridges of various designs in Patna, Samastipur, Ara, Nalanda, and Arwal.

Report Details

- ❖ **Maintenance Recommendations:** The report will detail how to maintain the bridges and the costs involved.
- ❖ **Priority Selection:** The report will advise on prioritizing bridges for maintenance, as maintaining all bridges simultaneously is not feasible.
- ❖ **Criteria for Prioritization:** The selection of priority bridges for maintenance will be based on specific criteria outlined in the report.

Anima Kumari

Why in the news?

Anima Kumari from Bihar won a silver medal at the World Deaf Chess Championship held in Belgrade, Serbia.

- ❖ Anima Kumari is originally from the Bhojpur district of Bihar.



International Relations

India's Strategic Focus on BIMSTEC

Why in the news?

India hosted BIMSTEC foreign ministers' retreat with external affairs minister S Jaishankar urging his counterparts to harbour higher aspirations.

Intersection of Policies

- ❖ BIMSTEC embodies India's strategic convergence of "Neighbourhood First," "Act East Policy," and "SAGAR" vision.

Key Areas of Discussion

- ❖ **Connectivity:** Enhancing physical and digital linkages among member nations.
- ❖ **Institution Building:** Strengthening BIMSTEC frameworks for sustainable cooperation.
- ❖ **Trade and Business:** Promoting economic integration and trade facilitation measures.

- ❖ **Health and Space Cooperation:** Collaborating on health initiatives and space technology applications.
- ❖ **Digital Public Infrastructure:** Developing shared digital platforms and infrastructure.
- ❖ **Capacity Building:** Fostering human resource development and skill enhancement initiatives.
- ❖ **Mechanisms Evaluation:** Assessing existing mechanisms and exploring new avenues for effective collaboration.

About BIMSTEC

- ❖ BIMSTEC, established in 1997, is a regional organization known as the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.
- ❖ Its member countries include Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan, and Nepal.



India-Austria Relationship

Why in the news?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer met in Vienna.

- ❖ Discussions included a private dinner followed by official talks the next day.

Bilateral Partnership Goals:

- ❖ India and Austria aim to establish a bilateral sustainable economic and technology partnership.
- ❖ Focus areas include green and digital technologies, infrastructure, renewable energy, water management, life sciences, smart cities, mobility, and transportation.

Strategic Approach:

- ❖ Both leaders agreed on adopting a strategic approach to enhance bilateral cooperation.
- ❖ Emphasis on political dialogue and joint initiatives to elevate the partnership.

Indo-Pacific Engagement:

- ❖ Commitment to a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ Support for international law of the sea (UNCLOS) and maritime security, promoting peace and stability.

Geopolitical Context:

- ❖ Implicit reference to China's assertive actions in the Indo-Pacific.
- ❖ Stressed respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and freedom of navigation.



Vienna

Defence And Security

Exercise Pitch Back 2024

Why in the news?

The Indian Air Force (IAF) arrived at the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Darwin to participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2024.

Exercise Schedule and Scope

- ❖ Scheduled from July 12 to August 2, 2024.
- ❖ Biennial multinational exercise involving 20 countries.
- ❖ Features over 140 aircraft and 4,400 military personnel.
- ❖ Focus on nighttime flying over vast, unpopulated areas.

Exercise Focus

- ❖ Enhances the ability of participating nations to deploy over large distances and support integrated operations in the Indo-Pacific region.

Benefits and Objectives



- ❖ Strengthening international cooperation.
- ❖ Building robust aviation associations in a challenging environment.
- ❖ Opportunity for IAF to operate in a diverse and dynamic international setting.

IAF's Previous Participation

- ❖ Marks the IAF's third participation in Exercise Pitch Black.
- ❖ Previous appearances were in 2018 and 2022.

News in Short

- ❖ Justice Aalia Neelum was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC) in Pakistan, becoming the first woman to hold the position of the court's top judge.



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