

Bihar Special

Super Speciality Eye Hospital

Why in the news?

Recently, the Government of Bihar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Shankar Eye Foundation India, Coimbatore to facilitate the construction and operation of a super-speciality eye hospital in Patna.

- ❖ The Bihar Cabinet approved the allotment of 1.60 acres of land at Kankarbagh, Patna on conditional lease to Shankar Eye Foundation India at a nominal cost of Rs 1.

Free Treatment Provision:

- ❖ 75 percent of the patients will receive free treatment, while the remaining 25 percent will pay for services.
- ❖ Families earning less than Rs 2.5 lakh annually will qualify for free treatment.

About Sankara Eye Foundation India

- ❖ Sankara Eye Foundation India, an internationally acclaimed eye treatment hospital, will construct and operate the hospital at its own expense.

- ❖ Advanced treatments such as corneoplasty, retinal detachment surgeries and eye cancer treatments will be offered along with general eye care.



Goldie Kumari

Why in the news?

Nalanda's daughter Goldie Kumari has been selected for the Prime Minister National Child Award for her outstanding contribution in the field of sports. The President of the country will honor Goldie at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 26 December.

- ❖ Goldie has brought laurels to Bihar by winning medals at the national and international levels.
- ❖ Goldie won gold in discus throw and bronze in javelin throw in the 'World Ability Youth Games 2024' held in Thailand from 1 to 7 December 2024.



Science And Technology

India, Japan startups collaborate to tackle space debris

Why in the news?

Two space startups, namely India's InspeCity and Japan's Orbital Lasers, are partnering to explore using lasers on satellites to clear space debris.

- ❖ Goal - to develop a system where a laser removes or moves old and dangerous space junk to keep space safer.
- ❖ The collaboration will examine Orbital Lasers' technology, which employs laser energy to stabilize space debris by vaporizing small portions of its surface.
- ❖ The companies plan to demonstrate this system in space after 2027, subject to regulatory approval from both nations.



Miscellaneous

Ganges River Dolphin Tagging in Assam

Why in the news?

The first-ever Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) has been tagged in Assam.

- ❖ **Implementing Agencies:** Conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Assam Forest Department, and Aaranyak.
- ❖ **Oversight:** Initiative under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- ❖ **Funding:** Supported by the National CAMPA Authority.
- ❖ The first of the tagging took place in Assam, where a healthy male river dolphin was tagged and released under utmost veterinary care.

About Ganges River Dolphin

- ❖ The Ganges River Dolphin, India's National Aquatic Animal, is unique in its ecology, being nearly blind and relying on echolocation for its biological needs.

- ❖ Approximately 90% of the species' population resides in India, historically distributed across the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli river systems.



National Institute of Siddha in Tambaram

Why in the news?

The National Institute of Siddha (NIS) in Tambaram, Chennai, has made history by setting a Guinness World Record for providing Varmam therapy to 567 individuals simultaneously.

- ❖ This achievement underscores the growing recognition of Siddha medicine, a traditional Indian system known for its non-invasive, drug-free treatments.
- ❖ The mass therapy session highlights the effectiveness and therapeutic potential of Varmam, a practice within the Siddha system of medicine that treats musculoskeletal, neurological, and orthopedic conditions.



Awards and Honors

Air India Limited

Why in the news?

In December 2024, Air India Limited, India's leading airline based in New Delhi, received two prestigious global honours, highlighting its ongoing transformation and dedication to service excellence.

- ❖ The airline's Vista Verve in-flight product was awarded the Good Design Award Australia 2024 for outstanding innovation and design.
- ❖ Air India also won three APEX Awards at the Future Travel Experience (FTE) Awards in Singapore, highlighting its leadership in global passenger experiences

97th Academy Awards

Why in the news?

International Feature Film Category

- ❖ UK Entry with Indian Connection: Santosh (Directed by Sandhya Suri) advanced to the next round.

Shortlisted Films in the International Feature Category

- ❖ Santosh (UK)
- ❖ Emilia Perez (France)
- ❖ I'm Still Here (Brazil)
- ❖ Universal Language (Canada)
- ❖ Waves (Czech Republic)
- ❖ The Girl with the Needle (Denmark)
- ❖ The Seed of the Sacred Fig (Germany)
- ❖ Touch (Iceland)
- ❖ Kneecap (Ireland)
- ❖ Vermiglio (Italy)
- ❖ Flow (Latvia)
- ❖ Armand (Norway)
- ❖ From Ground Zero (Palestine)
- ❖ Dahomey (Senegal)
- ❖ How to Make Millions Before Grandma Dies (Thailand)

Live Action Short Film Category

- ❖ Anuja (Indian Connection) advanced to the shortlist.
- ❖ Directed by Adam J Graves and Suchitra Mattai.



Indian Oscar History

- ❖ Only three Indian films have made it to the top five in the International Feature Film category:
- ❖ Mother India (1958)
- ❖ Salaam Bombay! (1989)
- ❖ Lagaan (2002)

Recent Wins (2023):

- ❖ Naatu Naatu from RRR won Best Original Song.
- ❖ The Elephant Whisperers won Best Documentary Short Film.

Additional Announcements

- ❖ Conan O'Brien will host the 2025 Oscars on March 2 at the Dolby Theatre, Los Angeles.
- ❖ Final nominations for the 97th Oscars will be announced on January 17, 2024.

Sports

FIFA Football Awards 2024

Why in the news?

Brazilian and Real Madrid football player Vinicius Junior won the 2024 FIFA Best Male Footballer of the Year award. Spain and Barcelona midfielder Aitana Bonmatí won the FIFA Best Female Player award.

- ❖ The winners of the 2024 FIFA Awards were announced and felicitated at a function held in Doha, Qatar, on 17 December 2024.
- ❖ FIFA President Gianni Infantino gave the awards to the winners.

Second consecutive FIFA Award

- ❖ Barcelona and Spain midfielder Aitana Bonmatí named The Best FIFA Women's Player for second successive year
- ❖ Real Madrid and Brazil forward Vinícius Junior receives The Best FIFA Men's Player 2024 award from FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

2024 FIFA Award Winners

- ❖ The Best FIFA Women's Player - Aitana Bonmatí
- ❖ The Best FIFA Men's Player - Vinícius Junior
- ❖ The Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper - Alyssa Naether
- ❖ The Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper - Emiliano Martínez
- ❖ The Best FIFA Women's Coach - Emma Hayes
- ❖ The Best FIFA Men's Coach - Carlo Ancelotti
- ❖ The Marta Award - Marta
- ❖ The Puskas Award-Alejandro Garnacho



38th National Games 2025

Why in the news?

The mascot for the 38th National Games, along with the logo, jersey, anthem, and tagline, was unveiled at Maharana Pratap Sports College in Raipur, Dehradun.

- ❖ Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha announced the inclusion of traditional sports like yoga and mallakhamb in the Games.
- ❖ The mascot, named "Mauli," is inspired by the Monal, the state bird of Uttarakhand, symbolizing the region's uniqueness and encouraging young athletes to aim high.
- ❖ The logo, also inspired by the Monal, highlights the natural beauty and diversity of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The tagline for the Games, "Sankalp Se Shikhar Tak" (From Resolve to Zenith), was also revealed during the event.

- ❖ Uttarakhand is set to host the National Games from January 28 to February 14, 2025.
- ❖ The event will see over 10,000 athletes, officials, and coaches from across the country, including institutional teams like the Services, competing in 38 sports.



Important Days/ Dates

International Migrants Day 2024

Why in the news?

International Migrants' Day is annually marked on 18 December.

- ❖ The theme of 2024 - 'Honouring the contributions of migrants and respecting their rights.'



News in Short

- ❖ The Uniform Civil Code will be implemented in Uttarakhand from January 2025.
- ❖ Indore, Madhya Pradesh, will file a first information report (FIR) against a person who gives money and alms to beggars from 1 January 2025.
 - The district administration issued the order to criminalise giving alms and money to beggars under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).
 - Section 163, A person found guilty can be punished by a jail term of a maximum of six months and a fine of Rs 1000.



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