

Bihar Special

Three Panchayats of Bihar received National Panchayat Award 2024

Why in the News?

Three Panchayats of Siwan district of Bihar have been selected for the National Panchayat Award 2024. These include Basauli Panchayat of Lakdi Nabiganj block, Jalalpur Panchayat of Daraunda block, Rukundipur Panchayat of Daraunda block.

- ❖ These Panchayats of Bihar have been awarded under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Raj Puraskar category.
- ❖ The felicitation ceremony for the National Panchayat Award 2024 was held on 11 December 2024 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, where Hon'ble President Draupadi Murmu presented the award to the award winners/recipients.

Science And Technology

IIT Madras releases 3D images of Human Fetal Brain



Why in the news?

The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) released highly detailed 3D images of the foetal brain through studies focussing on mapping the complex human brain.

- ❖ The process involves taking serial brain sections, imaging them, and then reconstructing them into 3D models.
- ❖ These images allow for detailed analysis of both healthy and diseased brains, helping advance neuroscience.
- ❖ This dataset — 'DHARANI' — is available to all researchers on an open-source portal.

Miscellaneous

India & Nepal Host First Tourism Meet

Why in the news?

Embassy of India, Kathmandu in association with the Nepal Tourism Board jointly organised the 1st India-Nepal Tourism Meet on 10 December 2024.

- ❖ The event focused on promotion of Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh and creating B2B connections to foster implementation of circuit tourism between India and Nepal.

- ❖ The B2B event at the Meet was attended by 13 delegates from India and 60 tour operators from Nepal.
- ❖ The discussions focused on promoting cross-border tourism especially through the land route.
- ❖ Tour operators from both sides deliberated on possible travel plans for visitors from both sides including in the context of Ramayana and Buddhist circuits.

SC directed the central government to grant permanent commissions to woman army officers.

Why in the news?

The Supreme Court exercised its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to grant a permanent commission to a woman Officer.

- ❖ This ruling has been given by a bench comprising justices BR Gavai and KV Vishwanathan.
- ❖ The apex court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by a woman officer, who is posted as Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Dental Corps at Agra.
- ❖ She challenged the January 2022 order of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) Regional Bench, Lucknow.

- ❖ The appellant was deprived of her third chance since the extension was capped at 35 years.

Index and Report

Decent Work in Nature Based Solutions (NbS) Report Released

Why in the news?

Launched at COP 16 of UNCCD by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

❖ **Key Findings:**

- NbS currently employs 60.5-63 million people globally, primarily in Asia.
- 95% of NbS employment is concentrated in Asia, largely due to India's MGNREGS.
- Women constitute 1/3rd of the NbS workforce.
- Youth represent around 14% of NbS workers.
- NbS contributes only 0.3% to global GDP.

- ❖ **Opportunities:** "Green-grey" infrastructure (combining natural and built infrastructure) could generate 20-32 million new jobs by 2030.

❖ Recommendations:

- Strengthen national NbS policies.
- Integrate NbS into education and training.
- Promote inclusivity in the NbS workforce.
- Improve data collection on NbS employment.

Anti-Drone Systems in India:

❖ Rising Threats:

- Increased use of drones for illegal activities along borders (e.g., smuggling, surveillance).
- Use of drones by terrorists to target civilians and security personnel.
- Use of drones for combat missions and military reconnaissance.

❖ Need for Anti-Drone Units:

- Real-time detection, tracking, and neutralization of drones.
- Safeguarding critical infrastructure (airports, military installations).
- Countering non-state actors using drones.

❖ Recent Measures:

- DRDO's Soft Kill and Hard Kill systems (jamming and laser-based destruction).

- Laser-equipped anti-drone guns along the India-Pakistan border.
- Bharat Electricals Limited's Counter Drone System (D4 System).

Key Takeaways:

- ❖ NbS has the potential to create significant employment opportunities, particularly in developing countries.
- ❖ Addressing the rising threat of drones is crucial for India's national security.
- ❖ India is developing and deploying various anti-drone technologies to counter these threats.

Important Days/ Dates

International Day of Neutrality

Why in the news

International Day of Neutrality is celebrated by the United Nations on 12 December every year.

- ❖ The International Day of Neutrality was officially proclaimed by a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution in February 2017.
- ❖ Neutrality refers to a state or individual not supporting any party.

Short News

- ❖ India has achieved a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.0, according to the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21).
 - This meets the targets set under the National Population Policy 2000 and the National Health Policy 2017, which aimed for a TFR of 2.1.
 - The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Anupriya Patel, said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), launched in 2016 to provide 'pucca' houses with basic amenities for rural households, has been extended by five years.
 - The government aims to construct an additional two crore houses under the scheme by FY 2028-29, building on the initial target of 2.95 crore houses set for FY 2016-17 to 2023-24.



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