

### Bihar Special

#### Greenfield Township Development

##### Why in the news?

The state government will develop greenfield townships in all the nine divisional headquarters cities including Patna, Muzaffarpur, and Bhagalpur.

##### Project Scope:

- ❖ Public facilities like better roads, parks, and hospitals will be developed.

##### Initial Cities:

- ❖ Patna, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Darbhanga, Munger, Saran, Saharsa, and Purnia.
- ❖ Work will start with one or two projects in each city, expanding later.

##### Implementation Committee:

- ❖ Chaired by the Development Commissioner.
- ❖ Principal Secretary of the Urban Development and Housing Department as Member Secretary.
- ❖ Principal Secretaries of the Revenue and Land Reforms Department, Road Construction Department, and Industries Department as members.

#### GreenField Township:

- ❖ Green Field Township is a meticulously planned residential project that offers a perfect blend of modern living and serene surroundings.

#### Cabinet Approvals and Policies of Bihar Government

##### Why in the news?

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's cabinet approved the Bihar Purchase Preference Policy 2024 to boost local industrial units and give priority to procurement from micro, small, and startup enterprises in the state.

- ❖ The decision was taken to maximise employment opportunities for the local people.
- ❖ Approved to support growth of local industrial units/enterprises in procurements.
- ❖ Focus on Bihar micro and small enterprises and startups.

##### Eligibility:

- ❖ Registered and operational in Bihar for at least one year.
- ❖ Office in the state.
- ❖ Filed and paid GST return for at least one year.

Additionally, new policies targeting health welfare and anti-illegal mining measures were introduced, including financial aid for Beta Thalassemia treatment and a whistleblower reward.

#### Health Department Proposal:

- ❖ Approved Rs 15 lakh assistance for children under 12 suffering from Beta Thalassemia Major.
- ❖ Treatment at Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

#### Reward for Whistleblowers on Illegal Mining:

- ❖ The reward for information leading to arrests for illegal mining.
- ❖ Rs 5,000 reward if illegal minerals are transported via tractors.
- ❖ Rs 10,000 reward if transported via trucks.

**Chief Minister Home Stay Bed and Breakfast Promotion Scheme-2024:** Approved to provide better and affordable facilities for tourists.

### Obituary

#### Shobhana Ranade

#### Why in the news?

Recently Veteran Gandhian and social worker Shobhana Ranade passed away.

- ❖ **Award Recognition:** Honoured with the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award, for her social work in 2001.

#### Social Work:

- ❖ Focus on helping destitute women and children.
- ❖ Played a key role in establishing the Gandhi National Memorial Society at Aga Khan Palace, Pune.
- ❖ Founded a training institute for women.
- ❖ Established a children's village called 'Baal Gram', providing homes to hundreds of orphan children.
- ❖ **Environmental Activism:** Active member of the Save Ganga Movement, which aims to prevent pollution of the Ganga River through the Gandhi National Memorial Society.



## Economy

### India's Coking Coal Production and Plans

#### Why in the news?

India is targeting coking coal production of 80 million tonnes (mt) in FY25, a 20 percent increase over last year's 66.55 mt, as it aims to bring down its import bill in the segment.

#### Supplementary Measures:

- ❖ Coal India Ltd to bring on-stream washeries.
- ❖ Commissioning of two new coking coal washeries.
- ❖ Monetising four additional washeries.
- ❖ Expansion by steel mills such as Tata, JSW, and SAIL through brownfield and greenfield projects.

#### Current Status:

- ❖ India is the world's largest coking coal importer with over 58 mt imports.
- ❖ The domestic washing capacity is 23 mtpa.
- ❖ SAIL: 9.26-2 mtpa.
- ❖ Tata Steel: 7.6 mtpa.

**Blending Targets:** Domestic coking coal blending to increase from 10-12% to 30-35%.

#### Challenges:

- ❖ Domestic coking coal has a high ash content.
- ❖ Requires washing and blending with low ash coking coal.

**Diversified Imports:** Sourced from Australia, the United States, Indonesia, Mozambique, Russia, etc.

#### Future Plans:

- ❖ Coal India to ramp up washery capacities.
- ❖ Plans to set up 11 washeries with 33 mtpa capacity.
- ❖ 15 mtpa dedicated to steel sector supply.

## Miscellaneous

### 'Upasthiti (attendance) Portal'

#### Why in the news?

Recently Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren launched the 'Upasthiti (attendance) Portal' to ensure the daily attendance of doctors, para-medical staff and other employees under the state health department.



### e-DHCR Portal

#### Why in the news?

Chief Justice of India, Justice DY Chandra-chud, launched the e-DHCR portal, a user-friendly official platform for reporting the judgments of the Delhi High Court.



- ❖ The e-DHCR portal will serve as the official law report of the Delhi High Court judgments. It contains more than 2,000 judgments rendered by the Delhi High Court from the year 2007 to May 2024.

### e-Sankhyiki Portal

#### Why in the news?

Recently the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched the e-Sankhyiki portal to enhance data management and sharing.

- ❖ **Aims** - To establish a comprehensive data management and sharing system, significantly enhancing the ease of dissemination of official statistics in India.

- ❖ Designed with - The e-Sankhyiki portal is designed with two key modules- the Data Catalog and Macro Indicators.
- ❖ The Data Catalog Module offers a detailed listing of the major data assets of the Ministry, providing users with the ability to search and download data effortlessly.
- ❖ The Macro Indicators module provides time series data of macroeconomic indicators of four key products of the Ministry.
- ❖ This module is equipped with features for filtering and visualizing data, along with metadata to aid in comprehensive data analysis.

### Persons In News

#### Vikas Lakhera

#### Why in the news?

Lt Gen Vikas Lakhera took over as the 22nd director general of Assam Rifles.

- ❖ He succeeds Lt Gen (retd) PC Nair, who relinquished the command of the force on superannuation from the military service.
- ❖ Lt Gen Lakhera has varied professional experience in serving in the northeastern region.

- ❖ He was commissioned into the 4 SIKH LI of the Indian Army on Jun 9, 1990.



### Important Days/ Dates

#### National Javelin Day 2024

National Javelin Day came into existence in India when Neeraj Chopra clinched a gold medal for India in the Tokyo Olympics on August 7, 2021.

- ❖ **Decision:** The Apex body of Athletes decided to celebrate National Javelin Day to inspire future generations.

#### Historical Achievement:

- ❖ Neeraj Chopra made history with a throw of 87.58m in the men's Javelin Throw final at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics and won a gold medal, becoming the first Indian athlete to do so in this category.
- ❖ Neeraj Chopra is the second individual gold medalist for India in the Olympics, following Abhinav Bindra's gold in shooting in 2008.

- ❖ **Declaration:** AFI President Adille J. Sumariwalla declared August 7 as National Javelin Day.

#### Hiroshima Day 2024

Every year, August 6 is observed solemnly as Hiroshima Day around the world and this year will be the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the Japanese city in the final year of World War II.

#### National Handloom Day

National Handloom Day is celebrated every year on August 7 to pay tribute to the handloom weavers in India and to showcase the country's rich handloom industry.

- ❖ **Launched by:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 7, 2015, in Chennai, marking the centenary of the Swadeshi Movement.
- ❖ In 2015, the Government of India decided to commemorate the 7th of August every year as the National Handloom Day.



### News in Short

- ❖ Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav said that the Central Government has declared Adichunchanagiri in Karnataka and Choolannuar in Kerala as Peacock Sanctuaries.
- ❖ Jio Financial Services Ltd. has introduced the JioFinance app in Paris, allowing Indian travelers to make digital payments at selected tourist attractions in the city.
- ❖ Hamas has named its Gaza leader Yahya Sinwar as successor to former political chief Ismail Haniyeh.
- ❖ Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has been appointed as the head of Bangladesh's interim government.
- ❖ Dinesh Karthik, a former India wicketkeeper batter, was appointed the league ambassador of the SA20 League.
- ❖ Recently Challa Sreenivasulu Setty was appointed as Chairman of the country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) for three years.



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