

### Bihar Special

#### New Governor of Bihar

##### Why in the news?

Arif Mohammed Khan, the Governor of Kerala since 2019, will now serve as the Governor of Bihar.

- ❖ He will be the 42nd Governor of Bihar post independence.

##### About Arif Mohammed Khan:

- ❖ Born on 18 November 1951 in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Khan is an alumnus of Aligarh Muslim University and Lucknow University.
- ❖ He is a staunch critic of the Muslim Personal Law Board and resigned from Rajiv Gandhi's cabinet over differences regarding the Shah Bano case.
- ❖ He has also represented the Kanpur and Bahraich constituencies in the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 12th Lok Sabha.
- ❖ As a Union Cabinet Minister, Arif Mohammad Khan held the Ministry of Energy and Civil Aviation during 1989-90.
- ❖ He took charge as the 22nd Governor of Kerala on 06 September 2019.



### Polity And Governance

#### New Governors of States

##### Why in the news?

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed new governors for five states.

- ❖ Former Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla has been appointed as the Governor of Manipur.
  - He is a retired 1984-batch IAS officer, served as the Union Home Secretary from 22 August 2019 to 22 August 2024.
- ❖ Arif Mohammed Khan, the Governor of Kerala since 2019, will now serve as the Governor of Bihar.
- ❖ Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, the Governor of Bihar, has been reassigned as the Governor of Kerala.
- ❖ General Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.), a former Army Chief and Union Minister, has been appointed as the Governor of Mizoram.
- ❖ President Murmu accepted the resignation of Raghubar Das as the Governor of Odisha. Das, a senior BJP leader from Chhattisgarh, resigned from the position recently.
  - Hari Babu Kambhampati, currently the Governor of Mizoram, has been reassigned as the Governor of Odisha.

### Chief Justices of High Courts

#### Why in the news?

The Central Government has notified the appointment of Chief Justices of two High Courts – Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand High Court.

- ❖ The Chief Justice and Judges of the High Courts are to be appointed by the President under clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution.

#### Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh HC



- ❖ Justice GS Sandhawalia has been appointed as the chief justice of the Himachal Pradesh high court (HC).
- ❖ Prior to his appointment, he was serving as a judge of the Punjab and Haryana HC.

#### Chief Justice of Uttarakhand HC



- ❖ Justice Narender G was appointed as the head of the Uttarakhand high court.
- ❖ Prior to his appointment, he was serving as a judge of the Andhra Pradesh HC.

### Economy

### India's First Zero-Waste Airport

#### Why in the news?

Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport in Indore became the country's first zero-waste airport.

- ❖ Union Civil Aviation minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu inaugurated a recycling plant at the airport.
- ❖ The basic concept behind making the airport zero waste is following four R i.e. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Restore.

- Compost manure will be made from wet waste, while dry waste will be separated.
- According to the bulk waste management rules, a material recovery facility has been constructed in a 3000-square-foot area.



## India's first Bio-Bitumen-Based National Highway Stretch

### Why in the news?

India's first bio-bitumen-based National Highway stretch was inaugurated on NH-44 in Mansar, Nagpur, Maharashtra.

- ❖ It was inaugurated by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- ❖ Authorities have implemented lignin-based bio-bitumen technology to develop the stretch, provided by Praj Industries, in collaboration with CSIR - Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and Oriental.

### Significance:

- ❖ It is a significant breakthrough for India to have used lignin as a sustainable binder in flexible pavement technology.
  - This addresses the challenge of bitumen scarcity, while also mitigating the dependency of India on imports, amounting to 50 per cent of the total supply at the moment.
  - Leveraging India's abundant lignocellulosic biomass, this development aligns with the nation's vision for sustainable industrial growth.

### Advantages:

- ❖ This innovation contributes to global sustainability goals by generating revenue for bio-refineries, mitigating stubble burning, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 70 per cent compared to fossil-based bitumen.



## Miscellaneous

### Wine tourism initiative

#### Why in the news?

The Uttarakhand government has officially launched its first wine production unit in Kotdwar.

- ❖ **Objective:** To promote wine tourism under its new excise policy.
- ❖ **Under the wine tourism initiative:**
  - Wine enthusiasts will have the opportunity to tour the wine production unit and its premises.



- Visitors will learn about the history of wine and the production process and get a chance to taste different varieties of wine.
- To enhance the experience, guest houses are being developed around these units, allowing tourists to relax and enjoy the region's scenic beauty.
- ❖ **Small and medium units for wine production** will be encouraged in various hilly regions, allowing local fruits to be used for wine production, which will increase employment and business opportunities for the local population
- ❖ **Significance:** Wine tourism has gained significant popularity in several countries, and Uttarakhand aims to tap into this growing trend.

### Important Days/ Dates

#### Good Governance Day

#### Why in the news?

The **Good Governance Day**, or Sushasan Diwas, is marked on **December 25** every year in India.

- ❖ **Objective:** To commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

- To create awareness among the masses, especially among the young generation, about the accountability of government and administration.
- It promotes citizen-centric as well as efficient and transparent governance to improve service delivery.
- ❖ This year, India is observing the **100th birthday anniversary of Vajpayee**.
  - The government of India will commemorate the day under the theme, "India's Path to a Viksit Bharat: Empowering Citizens through Good Governance and Digitalisation."
  - As part of the celebrations, the central government also carries out Sushasan Saptah (Good Governance Week) every year from December 19-25.

#### ❖ History:

- In 2014, the newly elected BJP announced that former PM of India and Bharatiya Janata Party's doyen Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary will be commemorated as Good Governance Day.

### Union Government's initiatives on 100th birthday:

- ❖ To mark the 100th birth anniversary of Vajpayee, PM Modi visited Madhya Pradesh where:
  - He inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several development projects in Khajuraho.
  - He laid the foundation stone of the Ken-Betwa river linking national project, which will be the maiden interlinking of rivers project in India under the national perspective plan.
  - PM Modi released a commemorative stamp and coin (100 rupees) marking Vajpayee's birth anniversary.
  - He laid the foundation stone of 1,153 Atal Gram Sushasan buildings, which will play a significant role in the practical conduct of work and responsibilities of the Gram Panchayats.
  - He inaugurated the Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project of Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district -- aimed at reducing carbon emissions and contributing to the Centre's mission of net zero carbon emission by 2070.

### Atal Vihari Vajpayee

- ❖ He was born on December 25, 1924, in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ He went on to serve as the Prime Minister of India on three occasions – first in 1996 for a term of 13 days, followed by a 13-month term between 1998 and 1999, and later a full term of five years between 1999 to 2004.
  - His tenure saw transformational initiatives like the Kisan Credit Card, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and the National Rural Health Program.
- ❖ He was known for his famous poetry and writings, and emerged as the first leader from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to become the Prime Minister.
- ❖ He was honoured with Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour, in 2015.



### News in Short

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has earned a prestigious spot on the Wall Street Journal's list of "Must-Visit Global Destinations for 2025".
- ❖ Former Chief Minister of Delhi and Aam Aadmi Party convenor Arvind Kejriwal launched a scheme in honour of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar.
  - The name of this scheme is Dr Ambedkar Samman Scholarship Scheme.

- Under this scheme, students from SC ST category of Delhi will get benefits.
- The entire cost of higher education abroad for SC, ST category students will be borne by the Delhi government.
- ❖ India has been announced as the host of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun 2025.



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