

### Bihar Special

#### 'Hamara Bihar, Hamari Sadak' app

##### Why in the news?

The Chief Minister of Bihar inaugurated the 'Hamara Bihar, Hamari Sadak' app.

- ❖ This app will provide a list of 65 thousand km of rural roads with maintenance periods for all blocks of the state.
- ❖ Users can select the road of their block and report potholes or other problems with photos.
- ❖ This app has been developed to promote direct communication between citizens and the government. 'Hamara Bihar, Hamari Sadak' app will now be available on Google Play Store.



नयी डीलक्स बसों का जायजा लेते मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार.

### Science And Technology

#### Chinese Spacewalk Breaks a Record

##### Why in the news?

Chinese astronauts Cai Xuzhe and Song Lingdong from the Shenzhou-19 mission completed a 9-hour spacewalk, surpassing the previous record of 8 hours and 56 minutes set by American astronauts in 2001.

- ❖ The spacewalk was part of efforts to build and maintain China's Tiangong Space Station.

##### Aboard the mission were three astronauts:

- ❖ Cai Xuzhe and Song Lingdong performed the spacewalk.
- ❖ Wang Haoze, the third astronaut-engineer, remained inside the station to assist.
- ❖ The crew launched in late October 2024 and the spacewalk was conducted this week.
- ❖ The first spacewalk took place in 1965 when a Soviet astronaut spent 16 minutes outside his craft. Months later, an American astronaut completed one.
- ❖ The first spacewalk by a Chinese astronaut was in 2008, lasting 19 minutes.



### Miscellaneous

#### World's Largest Museum

##### Why in the news?

The Ministry of Culture has announced a landmark partnership with France Museums Développement (FMD) to develop the Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum as a world-class cultural institution.

- ❖ This ambitious project is an integral part of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project and is set to span approximately 1,55,000 square meters across the iconic North and South Blocks in New Delhi.
- ❖ First announced by the Prime Minister during the International Museum Expo in May 2023.

##### Features of the Museum

##### Adaptive Reuse:

- ❖ Preserves architectural heritage while transforming the North and South Blocks into vibrant cultural spaces.
- ❖ Inspired by France's "Grands Projets" initiative, which converted government buildings into iconic cultural landmarks.

##### Global Collaboration:

- ❖ Combines India's cultural legacy with France's museum management and design expertise.
- ❖ Aims to redefine the museum experience by celebrating diversity and fostering inclusivity.



### Awards and Honors

#### Sahitya Akademi Awards 2024

##### Why in the news?

The 2024 Sahitya Akademi Awards have been announced, recognizing 21 writers and poets from various Indian languages.

- ❖ These awards honor exceptional works in categories like novels, poetry, short stories, essays, plays, and literary criticism.
- ❖ The *littérateurs* will be honoured with an engraved copper plaque, a shawl and ₹1 lakh in cash at a function to be held on March 8, 2025, at the Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi.

The following have won the Awards in the below mentioned category:

Category	Awardees
Poetry	Sameer Tanti (Assamese), Dileep Jhaveri (Gujarati), Gagan Gill (Hindi), K. Jayakumar (Malayalam), Haobam Satyabati Devi (Manipuri), Paul Kaur (Punjabi), Mukut Maniraj (Rajasthani), Dipak Kumar Sharma (Sanskrit)
Novel	Aron Raja (Bodo), Easterine Kire (English), Sohal Koul (Kashmiri)
Short Stories	Yuva Baral (Nepali), Hundraj Balwani (Sindhi)
Essays	Mukesh Thali (Konkani), Mahendra Malangia (Maithili), Baishnab Charan Samal (Odia)
Literary Criticism	K.V. Narayana (Kannada), Sudhir Rasal (Marathi), Penugonda Lakshminarayana (Telugu)
Play	Maheswar Soren (Santali)
Research	A.R. Venkatachalapathy (Tamil)

- ❖ Playwright Mahendra Malangia, a resident of Madhubani, will be awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award for his work 'Prabandh Sangrah' in the Maithili language and literature category in 2024.

#### Sahitya Akademi Awards

- ❖ Every year since its inception in 1954, the Sahitya Akademi Award prizes the most outstanding books of literary merit published in any of the 24 major Indian languages.
- ❖ The first Awards were given in 1955.
- ❖ The award includes an engraved copper plaque, a shawl, and a cash prize.
- ❖ The plaque was designed by the Indian filmmaker Satyajit Ray.

#### Index and Report

#### Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024

#### Why in the news?

According to the Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024 report published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), India is ranked **39th among 119 countries**. In the previous index published in 2021, India was ranked **54th**.

- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Governments, Union Territory Administrations, and Central Agencies under the following schemes:
- ❖ **Swadesh Darshan:** Focused on developing theme-based tourist circuits.
- ❖ **PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive):** Aims to rejuvenate pilgrimage and spiritual heritage sites.
- ❖ **Assistance to Central Agencies:** Supports tourism infrastructure development at various destinations.

#### List Of Projects Sanctioned Under Swadesh Darshan Scheme in Bihar

Bihar	Tirthankar Circuit 2016-17	Development of Vaishali- Arrah- Masad- Patna- Rajgir- Pawapuri- Champapuri	33.96	30.04
Bihar	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Development of Kanwaria Route: Sultanganj - Dharmshala- Deoghar	44.76	42.52
Bihar	Buddhist Circuit 2016-17	Development of Buddhist circuit- Construction of Convention Centre at Bodhgaya	95.18	95.18
Bihar	Rural Circuit 2017-18	Development of Bhitiharwa- Chandrahia- Turkaulia	44.27	40.31
Bihar	Spiritual Circuit 2017-18	Development of Mandar Hill & Ang Pradesh	44.55	42.32

#### List of Projects Sanctioned Under PRASHAD Scheme in Bihar

Bihar	6.	Development at Patna Sahib	2015-16	29.62	29.62
	7.	Development of basic facilities at Vishnupad temple	2014-15	3.63	3.63





### Obituary

#### Om Prakash Chautala

##### Why in the news?

Om Prakash Chautala, former Chief Minister of Haryana and the leader of the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), died.

- ❖ Chautala, a seven-time MLA, served as the Chief Minister of Haryana for a record four terms, starting in December 1989, with his final term spanning from 1999 to 2005.



### News in Short

- ❖ Indian-origin teenager **Caitlin Sandra Neil** was crowned Miss India USA 2024 at the annual pageant held in **New Jersey, US**.
- ❖ National Mathematics Day will be celebrated with enthusiasm on **22 December** in the Government Engineering College, Buxar on the occasion of the birth anniversary of India's great mathematician **Srinivas Ramanujan**.
- ❖ Masali village of Suigam taluka in Banaskantha has become the first border solar village in the country.



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