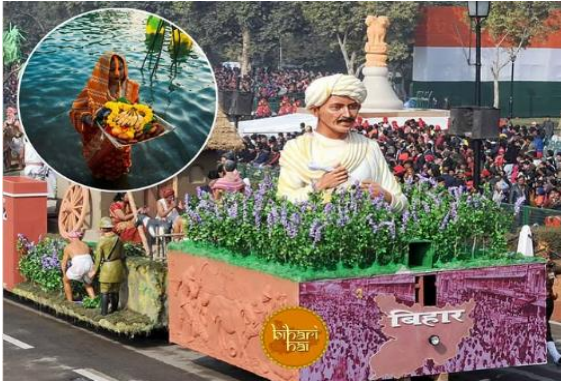


Bihar Special

Bihar's Tableau for Republic Day 2025



Why in the news?

After a gap of 8 years, Bihar's tableau will showcase the heritage of the state in the 2025 Republic Day parade celebrations.

- ❖ It will showcase the following:
 - Aashtha ka Lok Parv: Chhath.
 - Jal Jeevan Haryali Campaign and Ecotourism.
 - Sustainable Development and Bioconservation.

Polity And Governance

Republic Day Tableaux 2025

Why in the news?



The Ministry of Defence has announced that the theme for the Republic Day 2025 tableaux will be "Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas" (Golden India: Heritage and Development).

About the event:

- ❖ Fifteen states and 11 central ministries will highlight India's cultural heritage and development on the Kartavya Path as part of the Republic Day 2025 celebrations.
 - Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal have been selected.
- ❖ All the states/UTs, irrespective of their selection for Kartavya Path, are invited to display their tableaux during Bharat Parv in Red Fort (26th-31st January 2025).

Science And Technology

Spadex Mission

Why in the news?



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch the **SpaDeX mission** on December 30, 2024 using the PSLV-C60 rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

About the SpaDeX mission:

- ❖ SpaDeX is a cost-effective technology demonstrator, that will showcase in-space docking by deploying two small spacecraft, SDXO1 (Chaser) and SDXO2 (Target), both weighing approximately 220 kg.
- ❖ These spacecraft will be launched into a 470 km circular orbit at a 55-degree inclination, with a local time cycle of about 66 days.
- ❖ It aims to develop and demonstrate critical in-space docking technology, a key step in advancing India's space exploration ambitions.
- ❖ **Significance:**
 - India aims to become the fourth country in the world to achieve space docking technology through this mission.

APEMS

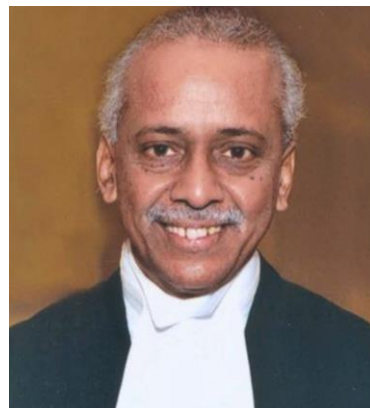
- ❖ Amity University, Mumbai, is preparing to make history as it launches spinach cells into space aboard ISRO's Spadex mission.

- ❖ The experiment, known as the Amity Plant Experimental Module in Space (APEMS), aims to study how plant cells grow and adapt in the unique conditions of space. The mission will launch on ISRO's PSLV-C60 rocket, as part of the fourth PS4-Orbital Experiment Module (POEM-4) series.
- ❖ It will focus on the growth-related changes in plant callus (a mass of plant cells) using spinach ('Spinacia oleracea') as the model organism.
- ❖ The research will compare the behavior of the plant cells under microgravity in space and normal gravity on Earth.

Persons In News

V. Ramasubramanian

Why in the news?



Former Supreme Court judge V Ramasubramanian has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

- ❖ This appointment comes months after former Supreme Court Justice (retd) Arun Kumar Mishra concluded his tenure as NHRC chairperson on 1st June this year.
 - After Mishra's retirement, Vijaya Bharathi Sayani became the acting chairperson of the human rights panel.
- ❖ Priyank Kanoongo and Dr Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi (Retd.) have been appointed as members of the commission.

National Human Rights Commission

- ❖ The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India was established on 12 October 1993.
 - The statute under which it is established is the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993 as amended by the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006.

- ❖ It conforms with the Paris Principles, adopted at the first international workshop on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights held in Paris in October 1991.
- ❖ Section 2(1)(d) of the PHRA defines Human Rights as the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India.
- ❖ The Chairperson and Members of the Commission are appointed by the President on the basis of recommendations of a Committee comprising the Prime Minister as the Chairperson, the Speaker of Lok Sabha, the Home Minister, the leaders of the opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha as Members.
- ❖ The tenure of the chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is three years, or until the chairperson reaches the age of 70, whichever is earlier.

Index and Report

Network Readiness Index 2024

Why in the news?

India has been ranked 49th in the Network Readiness Index 2024 (NRI 2024).

- ❖ India has improved 11 places, in 2023, India was ranked 60th with a score of 49.93.
- ❖ This year, the country not only climbed the rankings but also improved its overall score to 53.63.

About the index:

- ❖ According to the 2024 Network Readiness Index (NRI) report, the United States, Singapore, Finland, Sweden, and the Republic of Korea are leading as the most network-ready societies globally.
- ❖ It has been published by Portulans Institute, an independent non-profit research and educational institute based in Washington DC on technology, citizens, governance and impact.



Important Days/ Dates

National Consumer Day 2024

Why in the news?

National Consumer Rights Day is celebrated every year on 24th December.

❖ History of this day:

- It was established to commemorate the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act of 1986, which was approved by the then-President of India on December 24, 1986.

- **Note:** World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated every year on the 15th of March

- ❖ The theme for National Consumer Day 2024 is "Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice."

- ❖ On the occasion of National Consumer Rights Day 2024:

- The Department of Consumer Affairs has launched the 'Jago Grahak Jago App,' 'Jagruti App,' and 'Jagruti Dashboard', aiming to shield consumers from deceptive patterns.



According to the Consumer Protection Act, every consumer in India is entitled to **six essential rights**:

- ❖ Right to Security
- ❖ Right to Information
- ❖ Right to Choose
- ❖ Right to Voice
- ❖ Right to Grievance and Redressal
- ❖ Right to Education about Consumer Rights

Obituary

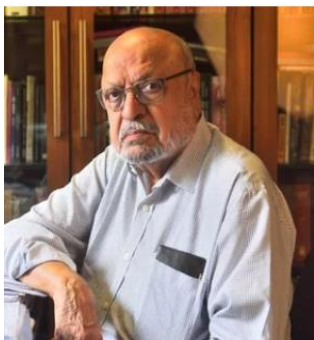
Shyam Benegal

Why in the news?

Filmmaker Shyam Benegal passed away on December 23, 2024.

About Shyam Benegal:

- ❖ He heralded a new era in Hindi cinema with the 'parallel movement' in the 1970s and 1980s with classics such as Ankur, Mandi and Manthan.



- ❖ His oeuvre encompassed documentaries, films, and epic television shows, including Bharat Ek Khoj, an adaptation of Jawaharlal Nehru's Discovery of India, and Samvidhaan, a 10-part show on the making of the Constitution.
- ❖ His biopics include The Making of the Mahatma and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: The Forgotten Hero.
 - The director's most recent work was the 2023 biographical Mujib: The Making of a Nation.
- ❖ He has won multiple National Awards for movies including, Bhumika: The Role (1977), Junoon (1978), Arohan (1982), Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: The Forgotten Hero (2004), Manthan (1976), and Well Done Abba (2010).

News in Short

- ❖ Merriam-Webster's 2024 Word of the Year is "Polarization", which happens to be one idea that both sides of the political spectrum agree on.
- ❖ Sairaj Pardeshi won one Gold and two Silver medals at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Doha.

- ❖ Nusrath Fatima from Sankoo, Kargil, representing India, clinched a silver medal at the 5th Junior World Pencak Silat Championship, held in Abu Dhabi from December 18 to 22, 2024 competing in the 58 kg Junior category.
- ❖ The Central government has scrapped the no-detention policy for classes five and eight.
 - Students who fail in the annual examination of classes five and eight will have a chance to retake the test within two months. After the retest, if they fail again, they will not be promoted.

- ❖ U.S. President-elect Donald Trump named Indian-American venture capitalist **Sriram Krishnan** as a senior policy advisor on AI.
- ❖ External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** has been awarded the **Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award** for Public Leadership by the South Indian Education Society (SIES).

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