

Bihar Special

First Wildlife Eco-Park of Bihar

Why in the news?

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated the state's first wildlife eco-park in Kaimur along with standard eco-tourism facilities at Telhar Kund, the highest waterfall in the state.

- ❖ The Maa Mundeshwari Wildlife Eco Park has been developed for Rs 10.4 crore and is spread over 13.6 acres at the foot of Mundeshwari Bhavani temple.
 - It has lifelike statues of wild animals, beautiful flower formations, a renovated Buddha Sarovar, an open-air theater, fountains and waterfalls.
- ❖ The ancient Mundeshwari temple sits atop the 600-foot-high Pravara hill and is famous for its color-changing Shivalingam and natural beauty.
- ❖ The Telhar Kund waterfall has been given a facelift at Rs 2.25 crore.
 - The captivating 600-foot high waterfall, the highest in Bihar, is located in Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary.

Kaimur in the news:

- ❖ NTCA has received in-principle approval to declare Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary as a tiger reserve. It will be the 2nd Tiger reserve of Bihar.
- ❖ As per the Indian State of Forest Report, 2021, it has the largest forest area as well as tops in terms of open forest.

Polity And Governance

One Nation One Election

Why in the news?

The Union Cabinet has accepted a high-level committee's recommendations on 'One Nation, One Election',

- ❖ An implementation group would be formed to take forward the recommendations of the panel headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind and detailed discussions would be held on various forums across the country over the next few months.

What's 'One Nation, One Election'?

- ❖ The concept revolves around conducting simultaneous elections for both Lok Sabha and State Assemblies throughout the country.

❖ **History of simultaneous elections:**

- India had simultaneous elections between 1951 and 1967.
- The peak occurred in 1967, with elections in 20 states coinciding with the national elections for the Lower House of Parliament. In 1977, this number was 17, while in 1980 and 1985, 14 states held simultaneous elections.

❖ **Issues:** Holding all elections simultaneously will require a lot of manoeuvring, including advancing some polls and delaying some others.

❖ **Significance:** Holding joint polls can save significant expenses, enhance administrative efficiency, and potentially lead to higher voter turnout.

Ram Nath Kovind committee report:

- ❖ The High-level Committee on Simultaneous Elections was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Ram Nath Kovind on 2 September 2023 and it submitted its report on 14th March 2024.

- ❖ It comprises 18,626 pages and is an outcome of extensive consultations with stakeholders, experts and research work of 191 days.

- It recommended simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies as the first step and holding municipal and panchayat polls within 100 days of the general election in the next phase.

- ❖ It has recommended 18 constitutional amendments, most of which will not need ratification by state assemblies. However, these would require certain constitutional amendment bills that would have to be passed by Parliament.

- ❖ Some proposed changes regarding the single electoral roll and single voter ID card would need ratification by at least half of the states



Economy

MSCI Equities Index

Why in the news?

India has become the sixth largest market in the MSCI(Morgan Stanley Capital International) All-Country World Investable Market Index (ACWI IMI), surpassing China and narrowly behind France.

- ❖ For the first time, India is the largest emerging market (EM) in the gauge that tracks the performance of global capital markets.
- ❖ At the end of August, India's weight in the MSCI ACWI IMI stood at 2.35 percent, 11 basis points (bps) more than China which is at 2.24 percent. France has just 3 bps more weight than India.

About the index:

- ❖ MSCI ACWI IMI index encompasses stocks in the large- and mid-cap space.
- ❖ It is a spinoff of the more widely followed MSCI ACWI Index, which has only large and mid-cap representation.

SWIFT MOVE

The top 10 weights in the MSCI AC World IMI Index (in %)

USA	63.23
Japan	5.73
UK	3.51
Canada	2.83
France	2.38
India	2.35
China	2.24
Switzerland	2.14
Taiwan	2.00
Germany	1.9

Data as on Sep 16; Sources: MSCI, Morgan Stanley Research

Science And Technology

Bharatiya Anthariksh Station

Why in the news?

The government of India has approved the building of the first module of the country's space station, to be called **Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS-1)**, by extending the scope of its Gaganyaan mission.

- The revised Gaganyaan programme now encompasses eight missions to be completed by **December 2028**, including the launch of the BAS-1 unit.
- This expansion involves additional uncrewed missions and hardware requirements to support the ongoing human spaceflight initiatives.

- ❖ It marks a crucial step towards establishing India's space station by 2035 and paves the way for a crewed lunar mission by 2040.

Chandrayaan-4 and Venus Mission

Why in the news?

The Union Cabinet approved the new moon mission **Chandrayaan-4** and the development of the **Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM)** as part of the government's vision to explore and study the Earth's closest planet.

What is Chandrayaan-4?

- ❖ It is a moon mission that aims to develop and demonstrate technologies for returning to Earth after a successful landing on the Moon.
- ❖ It will also collect lunar samples for analysis back on Earth.
- ❖ ISRO will handle the development and launch of Chandrayaan-4, which is expected to be completed within 36 months.
- ❖ It will cost **₹2,104.06 crore**. This budget includes spacecraft development, two LVM3 launches, deep space network support, and special tests.

- ❖ **Significance:** It will help India become self-sufficient in technologies for manned missions and lunar sample analysis.

Venus Orbiter Mission

- ❖ It will focus on scientific exploration to better understand Venus's atmosphere and geology, generating extensive scientific data by probing its thick atmosphere.
- ❖ The mission aims to orbit Venus with a scientific spacecraft to study the planet's surface, subsurface, atmospheric processes, and the Sun's impact on its atmosphere.
- ❖ The total budget for the Venus Orbiter Mission is **₹1,236 crore**, out of which **₹824 crore** will be spent on the spacecraft.
- ❖ **Significance:** Studying Venus is important because it is believed to have once been habitable like Earth. The mission is scheduled to launch in **March 2028**.

Next Generation Launch Vehicle

Why in the news?

The Union Cabinet approved the development of a next-generation launch vehicle.

- ❖ The Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) will offer three times the current payload capacity of the LVM3, at 1.5 times the cost.
- ❖ It is designed to carry up to 30 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- ❖ The total approved budget for the NGLV project is Rs. 8240 crore. It will have three development flights with a target of 8 years for the completion of the development phase.
- ❖ **Significance:**
 - India's existing launch vehicles, including PSLV, GSLV, LVM3, and SSLV, can launch satellites up to 10 tonnes to LEO and 4 tonnes to Geo-Synchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). The NGLV will build on this capability.

Schemes/Campaigns In News

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan

Why in the news?

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan with a total outlay of Rs 79,156 crore.

- ❖ **Objective:** To improve the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities by adopting saturation coverage for tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts.
- ❖ The Central Government will contribute Rs 56,333 crore, while the states will provide Rs 22,823 crore towards the programme.

About the Scheme:

- ❖ India has a Scheduled Tribe (ST) population of 10.45 crore, as per the 2011 census, with more than 705 tribal communities spread across the country
- ❖ It has been designed based on the lessons and success of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), which was launched by the Prime Minister on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on 15 November 2023, with a budget of Rs 24,104 crore, focusing on the PVTG population

- ❖ It will encompass 549 districts and 2,740 blocks spread across all tribal-majority villages in 30 states and union territories.
 - It will cover around 63,000 villages, benefiting more than 5 crore tribal people, as announced in the Budget Speech 2024-25.
 - The tribal villages covered under the Abhiyan will be mapped on the PM Gati Shakti Portal.
- ❖ It comprises 25 interventions, which will be implemented by 17 ministries which will be implemented in a time bound manner in next five years.
- ❖ It has introduced innovative schemes to promote livelihood and generate income among tribal and forest-dwelling communities.
 - It includes tribal homestays, sustainable livelihood for forest rights holders, infrastructure improvements in government residential schools and hostels, advanced facilities for the diagnosis of sickle cell disease, and tribal multipurpose marketing centres.



Miscellaneous

NCoE for AVGC-XR

Why in the news?

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of a National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) in Mumbai.

- ❖ Tentatively named the Indian Institute for Immersive Creators (IIIC), this hub is set to transform the AVGC sector and drive innovation in immersive technologies.
- ❖ It's modelled after the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).

About the NCoE for AVGC-XR:

- ❖ It will operate as a **Section 8 Company** under the Companies Act, 2013.
- ❖ **Objective:**
 - To enhance India's soft power while attracting foreign investments to the media and entertainment sector.
 - It will offer cutting-edge training and integrate India's rich cultural heritage with modern technology, fostering the creation of indigenous intellectual property (IP) and building the future of India's digital creative economy.
 - It will create a dynamic ecosystem for research, development, and innovation in immersive technologies.

Sports

ICC: Prize Money Parity

Why in the news?

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that men and women will receive equal prize money in World Cups, beginning with the Women's T20 World Cup 2024, which is set to take place in the UAE.

- ❖ This decision was made during the ICC Annual Conference in July 2023, accelerates the timeline for prize money parity by seven years, moving the original goal from 2030 to 2023.
- ❖ With this move, cricket became the first major team sport to offer equal prize money for both men's and women's World Cup events.
- ❖ **Significance:** It is part of the ICC's ongoing commitment to elevating women's cricket, aiming to foster its growth by 2032.

ICC in news:

- ❖ Jay Shah was elected unopposed as the Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and will assume the role on December 1, 2024.
- ❖ The International Cricket Council shifted the 9th Women's T20 World Cup to UAE from Bangladesh.

News in Short

- ❖ Iran's new president, Masoud Pezeshkian nominated a member of the Sunni Muslim minority to be governor of Kurdistan province.
 - Arash Zerehtan is the first Sunni to be made a regional governor in the predominantly Shiite country since the earliest days of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

- ❖ Jordan's King Abdullah has appointed Jafar Hassan as the new prime minister of the country.



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