

Bihar Special

Patna to Get Fifth Vande Bharat Train

Why in the news?



- ❖ The proposal for a new Vande Bharat Express from Patna to Tatanagar is under preparation.
- ❖ If approved, this will be the fifth Vande Bharat Express for Patna.
- ❖ Current routes include Patna to Ranchi, Patna to Kolkata, Patna to New Jalpaiguri, and Patna to Lucknow via Ayodhya.

Bihar Bridge Maintenance Policy

Why in the news?

Bihar is the first state in India to introduce a bridge maintenance policy.

- ❖ The policy aims to enhance surveillance and provide updates on the condition of bridges and culverts.

Health Cards for Bridges:

- ❖ Each bridge will have its own health card under the new policy.
- ❖ Maintenance will be conducted based on the details provided in the health card.

- ❖ Traffic regulation on bridges will be determined by the information on the health card.

Response to Recent Bridge Collapses:



WIRE

After 12 Incidents in 20 Days, Bihar Rolls Out Policy to Prevent Bridge Collapse

The new policy states that, departments including road construction, water resources, and building construction are needed to issue "health cards" of bridges with records of their inspection and maintenance.

- ❖ The policy was developed following the collapse of about a dozen bridges in the state over the past 18 days.

Economy

3D Metal Parts Development in Bhopal

Why in the news?

India will no longer rely on the USA and France for 3D metal parts.

- ❖ India's first 3D metal parts for space and defence will be developed in Bhopal at the Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (RRCAT).
- ❖ The initiative aligns with the 'Make in India' campaign and reduces dependency on foreign suppliers.

Capabilities and Benefits

- ❖ The new facility can produce metal parts capable of withstanding temperatures up to 3500 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ These parts will be used in space missions, defence equipment, and medical devices.

Indian Tourists: Future Growth Engine for Global Tourism

Why in the news?

- ❖ Indian tourists are recognized as a significant future growth driver for global tourism according to the OECD's Tourism Trends and Policies 2024 report.

Factors Driving Growth

- ❖ Expansion of India's middle class.
- ❖ Increased air connectivity across India.

Tourism Recovery Post-Pandemic

- ❖ OECD economies haven't yet reached pre-pandemic tourist arrival levels, down 23% in 2022 compared to 2019.
- ❖ Global tourist arrivals are expected to exceed pre-pandemic levels by 2024, with 2023 figures at 89% of pre-pandemic levels.

Leading Countries in Tourism Recovery

- ❖ Some OECD countries exceeded pre-pandemic tourist arrivals in 2023:
- ❖ **Portugal:** 19.4 million international tourists, 12.1% more than in 2019.
- ❖ **Colombia:** 34% increase compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Impact of Geopolitical Conflicts

- ❖ Tourism flows and the broader tourism economy are affected by geopolitical conflicts, including Russia's war against Ukraine and conflicts in the Middle East.

Trends in Indian International Travel

- ❖ International travel from India increased by 9.5% in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the same period in 2019.
- ❖ Travel to Russia decreased by 40%, while travel to Southeast Asian economies increased.
- ❖ Inbound passengers to India increased by 8.5% during this period.

Expansion of Airports in India

- ❖ Number of domestic airports in India has doubled.
- ❖ Increase in the number of international airports in India.

Awards and Honors

France's Top Civilian Award: Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur

Why in the news?



Roshni Nadar Malhotra, the chairperson of HCL Technologies, has been awarded France's highest civilian honor, the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour). The award acknowledges her significant contributions to business and sustainability efforts.

Sports

Chef-de-Mission

Why in the news?

Gagan Narang, a shooter and the 2012 men's 10m air rifle bronze medallist, has been appointed as the chef-de-mission of the Indian contingent for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

- ❖ Narang replaces M.C. Mary Kom, who resigned from the position.



New National Record in 3000m Steeplechase

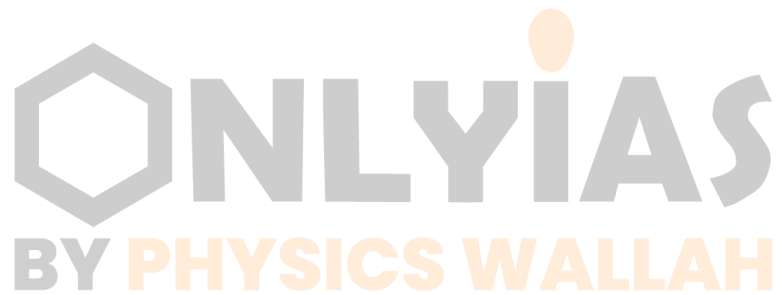
Why in the news?

India's Avinash Sable set a new national record in the 3000m steeplechase at the Paris Diamond League in France.

- ❖ Sable finished with a timing of 8:09.91, improving his personal best (8:11:20) by more than a second.
- ❖ Despite his record-breaking performance, Sable finished sixth in the event.
- ❖ The race was highly competitive, with Abraham Sime of Ethiopia winning with a personal best of 8:02.36, narrowly beating Amos Serem of Kenya, who also recorded the same time.

About Steeplechase:

- ❖ The steeplechase is an obstacle race in athletics which derives its name from the steeplechase in horse racing.



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