

Bihar Special**Solar-powered cold storage facility launched****Why in the news?**

Agriculture Minister Mangal Pandey inaugurated a new scheme for setting up cold storages with solar energy at the Agriculture Bhavan Auditorium in Patna.

❖ Subsidy for Solar Panels on Cold Storages:

- The government will provide a 50% subsidy, up to a maximum of ₹17.50 lakh, on the installation of solar panels for cold storages, with the total cost of installation being ₹35 lakh per cold storage.

First District to implement New IPC Laws**Why in the news?**

Saran has become the first district in Bihar to convict individuals under the new laws of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), formerly known as the Indian Penal Code.

New Appointments in Bihar**Why in the news?****❖ Brijesh Mehrotra Appointed**

- **Position:** Information Commissioner

- **Background:** Former Chief Secretary of Bihar, Brijesh Mehrotra, has been appointed as an Information Commissioner. He retired from his position as Chief Secretary on August 31, 2024.

❖ Prakash Kumar Appointed

- **Position:** Information Commissioner
- **Background:** Senior journalist Prakash Kumar, known for his work in electronic media, has also been appointed as an Information Commissioner.

Dr. Khalid Anwar passed**Why in the news?**

Former state minister Dr. Khalid Anwar Ansari passed away on September 3, 2024. He was the eldest son of the great freedom fighter and former minister Abdul Qayoom Ansari.

- ❖ **Political Career:** Dr. Khalid Anwar served as the Transport Minister and was elected as an MLA from Dehri twice. He also served once as a member of the Legislative Council.

Bihar Mining and Exploration

Why in the news?

ONGC is assessing gas potential in Buxar and Samastipur, with results due by 2025.

- ❖ **Gold Prospecting:** Low likelihood of gold in the Jamui district.
- ❖ **Mineral Mining:** Bihar is set to resume large-scale mining after 24 years:
 - **Nickel-Chromium:** Vedanta assigned to a block near Banka Bazar.
 - **Gluconite and Limestone:** Auctions for blocks in Rohtas are underway.
- ❖ **Upcoming Auctions:** Magnetite blocks in Jamui are to be auctioned in October 2024.

Agreement on High-Speed Rail Stations in Bihar

Why in the news?

The Bihar government has approved the locations for three high-speed rail stations in Bihar, set to be built in Bihta (Patna), Manpur (Gaya), and Hukahā (Buxar).

Polity And Governance

Aparajita Woman and Child Bill (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) Bill 2024

Why in the news?

In the wake of the August 9, 2024, rape and murder of a junior doctor at the R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, the West Bengal Assembly unanimously passed Aparajita Woman and Child Bill (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) Bill 2024.

Key Provisions of the Bill:

- ❖ **Capital Punishment for Rape Convicts**
The bill introduces the death penalty for rape convicts if the assault results in the victim's death or leaves her in a vegetative state.
- ❖ **Life Sentence Without Parole**
Offenders convicted of rape, in cases not leading to death or a vegetative state, will face a life sentence without the possibility of parole.
- ❖ **Faster Investigation Process**
The bill mandates the completion of the investigation in rape cases within 21 days, reducing the previous two-month investigation timeline.

- ❖ **Special Task Force for Rape Cases**
The bill emphasizes that investigations into rape cases will be led by women officers as part of a Special Task Force to handle such incidents efficiently.

Peace Accord in Tripura

Why in the news?

A memorandum of settlement was signed involving the Government of India, Tripura, the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), and the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF).

- ❖ **Ending the Insurgency:** More than 328 armed cadres will abandon violence and reintegrate into society, ending a 35-year conflict in Tripura.
- ❖ **Package:** The agreement includes a ₹250 crore development package for Tripura's tribal population.
- ❖ **AFSPA Removal::** The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) was removed from Tripura in 2015. The focus is now on regional development while preserving cultural identities.

- ❖ **Broader Impact::** This is the 12th peace agreement in the northeast and the third for Tripura in the past decade, contributing to the reintegration of around 10,000 insurgents.

International Relations

PM Modi's Visit to Brunei

Why in the news?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Brunei on 3 September 2024 as part of his two-nation tour. He was welcomed at the airport by Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

- ❖ **First Bilateral Visit by an Indian PM:**
This is the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Brunei, coinciding with the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.
- ❖ **Brunei's Geopolitical Importance:**
Brunei's proximity to the South China Sea and its strategic position in the Indo-Pacific makes it a key player in maritime trade routes, adding significance to PM Modi's visit.

- ❖ **Welcomed by Sultan of Brunei:**
The Sultan of Brunei, Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, hosted PM Modi at the world's largest palace, Istana Nurul Iman.

- ❖ **Inauguration of New Chancery:**
PM Modi inaugurated the new Chancery of the High Commission of India in Bandar Seri Begawan. The chancery features traditional Indian motifs, Kota stone claddings, and a blend of classic and contemporary design elements.

Key Discussion Points During the Visit:

- ❖ **Semiconductor Cooperation:**
PM Modi will discuss potential cooperation in the semiconductor sector with the Sultan of Brunei.
- ❖ **Bilateral Trade and Investment:**
India has invested \$270 million in Brunei's hydrocarbon sector. PM Modi will explore increasing investments, particularly in natural gas, during bilateral talks.
- ❖ **Hydrocarbon and Natural Gas Imports:**

India imports hydrocarbons from Brunei and is looking to expand its natural gas supply. This is expected to be a key focus of PM Modi's discussions.

- ❖ **Discussion on Myanmar:**
PM Modi and Sultan Bolkiah will also discuss the current situation in Myanmar, with a focus on regional stability and security.
- ❖ **Upcoming Visit:**
After Brunei, PM Modi will continue his two-nation visit with a trip to Singapore on September 4-5, 2024.

Environment And Geography

ANIIDCO and the Great Nicobar Project Why in the news?

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO) is overseeing a ₹72,000 crore infrastructure project in Great Nicobar.

- This project includes constructing a trans-shipment port, a greenfield airport, a tourism and township development, and a solar and gas-based power plant.

❖ **Concerns:**

- **Capability Issues:** ANIIDCO's suitability for this high-risk project is questioned due to its limited experience and resources. Lacked an environmental policy and expertise when appointed in July 2020. Started recruiting experts only in late 2022.
- **Environmental and Social Impact:** The project area is a biodiversity hotspot and home to indigenous communities with special rights.

Places In News

President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates Vishwashanti Buddha Vihara

Why in the news?

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Vishwashanti Buddha Vihara in Udgir, Latur district, Maharashtra.

- ❖ **Vihara Details:** The new Buddha Vihara in Udgir is a replica of the one in Kalburgi, Karnataka. It is set on a 15-hectare site with a meditation centre for 1,200 followers. The main entrance is inspired by the Sanchi Stupa in Bihar.

Index and Report

Forbes 2024: Richest women in the world

Why in the news?

As of September 2024, Savitri Jindal (India) is among the richest women in the world according to Forbes:

Rank	Name	Net Worth	Source of Wealth
1	Francoise Bettencourt Meyers and Family	\$89.5 billion	L'Oréal
2	Alice Walton	\$89.2 billion	Walmart
3	Julia Koch and Family	\$74.2 billion	Koch Industries
4	Jacqueline Mars	\$47.6 billion	Mars Inc
5	Savitri Jindal & family	\$39.9 billion	JSW Group

Books And Authors

Book: 'Bharat Ke 75 Mahan Krantikari'

- ❖ **Author:** Former minister and current BJP MP Dr. Bhim Singh

News in Short

- ❖ Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, and President of the UAE Accountability Authority, Humald Obald Khalifa Obaid Abushibs, signed an MoU to enhance collaboration in public sector auditing and governance practices.
- ❖ Siddhartha Agarwal, 49, from Bengaluru, has become the oldest Indian to swim across the English Channel, completing the 42-km stretch from England to France in 15 hours and six minutes on August 29, 2024.

- ❖ Reliance Industries Ltd. has been selected by the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) for a 10 GWh Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage capacity under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme. This move aims to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce import reliance.
- ❖ India to hold the 2nd edition of the International Conference On Green Hydrogen from September 11-13, 2024.
- ❖ Rahul Dravid, who led India to a T20 World Cup victory, will be the head coach of Rajasthan Royals for IPL 2025.
- ❖ Rajasthan approves 33% quota for women in police force.



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