

Bihar Special

Bihar Sports University

Why in the news?

Former IAS Sri Rajani Kant becomes the First VC (Vice Chancellor) of Bihar Sports University, Rajgir (Established in July 2021).



- ❖ Bihar CM Nitish Kumar will inaugurate it on August 29, 2024 on the occasion of National Sports Day.
- ❖ Ravindran Shankaran will be the first director of this University.

Bihar Teachers Selected for National Teacher Award

Why in the news?

The Ministry of Education's Department of School Education and Literacy announced the selection of two teachers from Bihar for the National Teacher Award.

❖ Selected Teachers:

- Dr. Meenakshi Kumari: Assistant teacher at Shivganga Girls Plus Two High School in Madhubani district.
- Sikendra Kumar Suman: Headmaster at New Primary School in Tarhani, Kaimur district.

❖ National Selection: This year, 50 teachers from across India have been selected for the award.

❖ Award Ceremony: The selected teachers will receive their awards on September 5 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

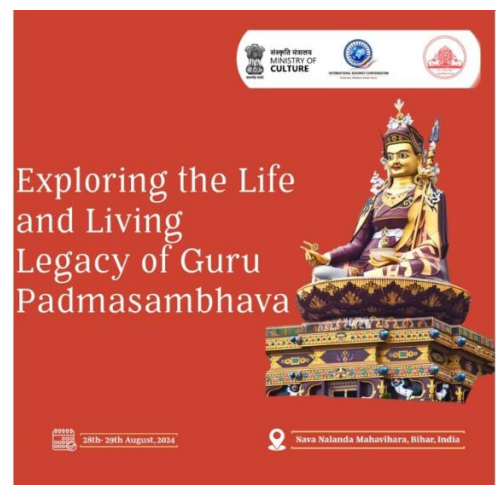
Two-Day Conference on Guru Padmasambhava

Why in the news?

The International Buddhist Confederation, in collaboration with Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, will hold a two-day international conference on the Life and Legacy of Guru Padmasambhava in Nalanda, Bihar. The conference will take place on August 28 and 29, 2024.

- ❖ **Significance of Guru Padmasambhava:** Guru Padmasambhava, also known as Guru Rinpoche, lived in the eighth century in ancient India. He is highly revered in Buddhism for spreading Buddha Dhamma across the Himalayan region and is considered a pivotal figure in Buddhist history.
- ❖ **Conference Themes:** The conference will focus on several key aspects:
 - **Biographical Insights and Mythology:** Exploration of Guru Padmasambhava's life and legends.
 - **Teachings of Vajrayana and Tantras:** Discussion on his teachings and the practices of Vajrayana Buddhism and Tantric rituals.
 - **Cultural and Artistic Contributions:** Examination of his influence on art, music, and culture.
 - **Travels and Regional Impact:** Analysis of his travels across the Himalayas and their impact.
 - **Legacy and Contemporary Relevance:** Consideration of his teachings' relevance today.

- ❖ **Conference Goals:** The conference aims to celebrate Guru Padmasambhava's Dhamma legacy through manuscripts, relics, paintings, and monuments. It will also explore how he adapted his teachings to different cultures and traditions, making Buddhism more accessible and relatable to diverse communities.



Economy

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) Completes A Decade Of Successful Implementation

Why in the news?

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 28, 2014, is celebrating a decade of operation.

Launch and Significance:

- ❖ **Launch Date:** August 28, 2014
- ❖ **Objective:** PMJDY is the world's largest financial inclusion initiative, aiming to integrate marginalized and economically disadvantaged groups into the formal banking system.

Program Features:

- ❖ **Account Benefits:** No minimum balance requirement, no account fees, and free RuPay debit cards with Rs. 2 lakh accident insurance cover.
- ❖ **Overdraft Facility:** Up to Rs. 10,000 available for emergencies.

Impact on Financial Inclusion:

- ❖ **Direct Benefit Transfers:** Enabled seamless and transparent transfers of government subsidies and benefits.
- ❖ **Jan-Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) Trinity:** Facilitated efficient subsidy delivery and financial inclusion.
- ❖ **Credit Access:** Enhanced access to credit, with increased Mudra loan sanctions reflecting growing financial stability among account holders.

Key Achievements:

- ❖ **Accounts Opened:** 53.13 crore accounts as of August 14, 2024.
 - **Women:** 55.6% of account holders are women.
 - **Rural and Semi-Urban Areas:** 66.6% of accounts are in these regions.
- ❖ **Total Deposits:** Rs. 2.31 lakh crore.
 - **Increase:** Deposits have increased about 15 times, with the number of accounts rising 3.6 times since August 2015.
- ❖ **Average Deposit:** Rs. 4,352 per account as of August 14, 2024.
 - **Growth:** Average deposit has increased fourfold, indicating greater account usage and savings.

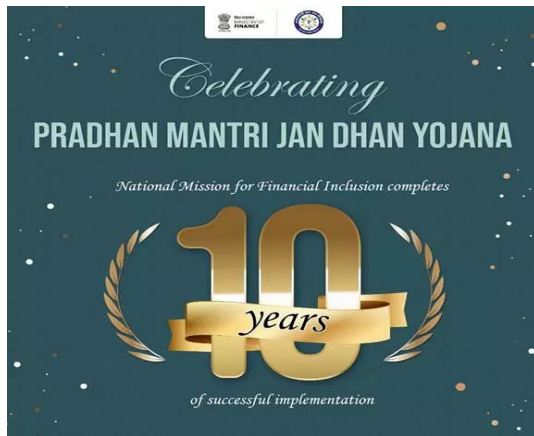
RuPay Card Distribution:

- ❖ **Issued Cards:** 36.14 crore RuPay debit cards issued.
- ❖ **Impact:** Increase in usage over time, supporting digital transactions.

Digital Transactions:

- ❖ **Total Transactions:** Rose from 2,338 crore in FY 2018-19 to 16,443 crore in FY 2023-24.

- ❖ **UPI Transactions:** Increased from 535 crore in FY 2018-19 to 13,113 crore in FY 2023-24.
- ❖ **RuPay Card Transactions:** Increased from 67 crore in FY 2017-18 to 96.78 crore in FY 2023-24.



Science And Technology

National Quantum Mission

Why in the news?

- ❖ **Launch and Objective:** India's first quantum computer is set for launch under the National Quantum Mission (NQM), aimed at advancing quantum technologies across four key verticals: quantum computing, communication, measurement, and sensing. The mission is set to begin after nearly four years of delay.

Funding and Structure

- ❖ **Funding:** The mission has been allocated approximately ₹6,000 crore.

- ❖ **Structure:** Four Section 8 companies will be established, supported by premier institutions such as IITs and IISc, to focus on activities within the identified verticals.

About the National Quantum Mission (NQM)

- ❖ **Initiative:** Launched in 2023 by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the NQM aims to bolster India's research and development in the quantum domain.
- ❖ **Duration:** The mission spans from 2023 to 2031.

Key Goals

- ❖ **Quantum Computers:** Develop intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50-1000 physical qubits using superconducting and photonic technology.
- ❖ **Quantum Communication:** Establish satellite-based secure quantum communications within India, extend to other countries, and develop highly sensitive magnetometers and precision atomic clocks.

- ❖ **Quantum Materials:** Support the design and synthesis of quantum materials like superconductors, novel semiconductor structures, and topological materials to create advanced quantum devices.

Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs)

- ❖ **Purpose:** Four T-Hubs will be set up in leading academic and research institutes to drive fundamental and applied research in quantum technologies.
- ❖ **Focus:** These hubs will stimulate new knowledge and advance R&D activities.

Applications

- ❖ **Sectors:** The mission's outcomes will benefit diverse sectors, including healthcare, diagnostics, defence, energy, and data security.



Sports

Paralympic Games 2024

Why in the news?

The 2024 Paris Paralympics began on August 28, 2024, and will run until September 8, 2024. This event marks the first time that Paris has hosted the Summer Paralympics.

Indian Contingent

- ❖ **Team Size:**
 - A total of 84 Indian para-athletes will participate, making it the largest contingent in India's Paralympic history.
- ❖ **Events and Sports:**
 - India will compete in 12 out of 22 sports at the Paris 2024 Paralympics.
- ❖ **Flag Bearers:**
 - Shot-put athlete Bhagyashree Jadhav and javelin thrower Sumit Antil, the reigning world record-holder, have been chosen as India's flagbearers.



News in Short

- ❖ Jay Shah, Secretary of the BCCI and Chairman of the Asian Cricket Council, has been elected unopposed as the Chairman of the ICC, set to assume the role on December 1, 2024, succeeding Greg Barclay.
- ❖ Satish Kumar, an IRMS officer and the first from the Scheduled Caste community will become the next Chairman of the Railways Board on September 1, 2024, succeeding Jaya Varma Sinha, who retires on August 31.
- ❖ Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) has introduced a new single-strain Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) named HILLCHOL® in Hyderabad. The HILLCHOL® vaccine is administered orally on two occasions: Day 0 and Day 14. It is suitable for children older than one year.

- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh Assembly passed the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Himachal Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2024, which increased the minimum marriage age for women from 18 to 21.
- ❖ The Central Government has announced the creation of five new districts in the Union Territory of Ladakh: Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang.
- ❖ ICC has officially confirmed the change of venue for the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup (9th edition) from Bangladesh to the United Arab Emirates.
 - Harmanpreet Kaur will lead the Indian team in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024.
 - It is scheduled in the UAE from October 3 to 20, 2024.



PW Web/App: <https://smart.link/7wwosivoicgd4>

For more such content, subscribe to our Telegram Channel https://t.me/pw_upsc