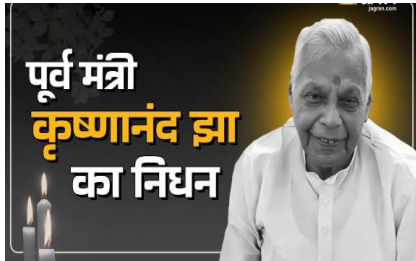


Bihar Special

Dr. Krishnanand Jha



Why in the news?

- ❖ Former Irrigation and Official Language Minister of Bihar Dr. Krishnanand Jha has passed away.
- ❖ He was the son of former Chief Minister of Bihar Pandit Vinodan.
- ❖ Dr. Jha was elected MLA thrice from the Madhupur assembly constituency on a Congress ticket.

App for booking and Monitoring Goods

Why in the news?

Two students from Bihar have developed a low-cost transport tracking system. Through this, goods being sent to the North East region or from there to other parts of the country can be easily tracked.

- ❖ **Prakhar Mokama** and **Aneesh** are from Patna. Both have done B. Tech and M.Tech from IIT Mumbai and have a startup incubator from Chandragupt Institute of Management. Apart from Patna, their startup also has offices in Guwahati and Pune.



Manganese in water is causing cancer

Why in the news?

Manganese (Mn) contamination of water is causing cancer in the Gangetic plains of Bihar, a study by a team of scientists from Patna-based Mahavir Cancer Sansthan.

- ❖ Manganese is a new element of toxicity causing cancer. "The study indicates high Mn contamination in cancer patient blood samples, with 6,022 micrograms per litre ($\mu\text{g/L}$) being the highest level.

The study

- ❖ Researchers obtained blood samples of 1,146 cancer patients for the study from the districts of Patna, Vaishali, East Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Siwan and Saran.
- ❖ Of the total patients of age ranging from 2 to 92, about 767 were females (67 percent) and 379 males (33 percent) respectively.

International Relations

UK becomes 12th member of CPTPP

Why in the news?

Britain became the first European nation and the 12th member of a trans-Pacific trade pact which includes Japan, Australia and Canada.

- ❖ The accession means Britain will be able to apply CPTPP(Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership) trade rules and lower tariffs with eight of the 11 existing members - Brunei, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.
- ❖ The agreement enters into force with Australia on Dec. 24 and will apply to the final two members - Canada and Mexico - 60 days after they ratify it.

- ❖ The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) is a trade agreement that establishes a free trade area among 12 countries:
- ❖ **Members-** Australia, Canada, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia, Peru, Chile, and the UK.



Defence And Security

Desert Knight Air Combat Exercise

Why in the news?

India, France, and the UAE began a major air combat exercise, “Desert Knight,” over the Arabian Sea. The operation aims to enhance trilateral defence cooperation and foster better interoperability among their air forces.

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated with aircraft such as Sukhoi-30MKIs and Jaguars, along with IL-78 mid-air refuellers and AEW&C (airborne early-warning and control) systems, operating from Jamnagar on India's west coast. French Rafale jets and UAE's F-16 fighters were deployed from the Al Dhafra airbase in the UAE.
- ❖ The “Desert Knight” exercise builds on the trilateral framework established in 2022 by the foreign ministers of India, France, and the UAE.



Schemes In News

Jalvahak'

Why in the news?

The Indian government launched the 'Jalvahak' policy to promote long-haul cargo transportation via inland waterways on the Ganga (NW 1), Brahmaputra (NW 2), and Barak (NW 16) rivers.

- ❖ Unveiled by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, the policy includes a Fixed Day Scheduled Sailing Service for cargo vessels operating on routes like Kolkata-Patna-Varanasi and Kolkata-Pandu (via the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route).
- ❖ The 'Jalvahak' scheme offers up to 35% reimbursement of operating expenses for cargo transport on these waterways, incentivizing vessel hiring from private operators. Targeting shipping companies, freight forwarders, and trade bodies, the scheme aims to optimize supply chains and is valid for an initial period of 3 years.

Key features include:

- ❖ Fixed transit timelines: e.g., 14 days for Kolkata-Varanasi and 18 days for Kolkata-Pandu.
- ❖ Ecological and economic benefits: Demonstrating the viability of waterways for cargo transport.



Miscellaneous

Country's first Geo Science Museum

Why in the news?

Recently Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the country's first Geoscience Museum, which was built in Victoria Market in Maharaj Bada of Gwalior.

- ❖ The museum, prepared by the National Science Museum Council in collaboration with the Municipal Corporation, contains information related to the origin of the Earth, the development of mankind and human civilization, and the universe.

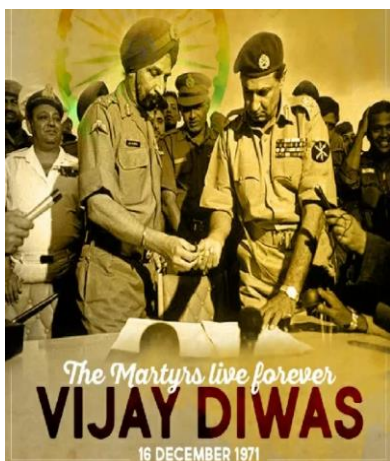


53rd Anniversary of Vijay Diwas

Why in the news?

India and Bangladesh marked the 53rd anniversary of Vijay Diwas, commemorating the decisive victory in the 1971 India-Pakistan war.

- ❖ The occasion, which celebrates India's victory and the subsequent liberation of Bangladesh (then East Pakistan), is being observed through a series of joint commemorative events, including the exchange of war veterans and serving officers between the two nations.
- ❖ Vijay Diwas, celebrated every year on December 16, honors India's victory in the 13-day war, which culminated in the surrender of Pakistan's Eastern Command in Dhaka, paving the way for the creation of Bangladesh.



Bastar village tunes in to TV for the first time

Why in the news?



Puvarti, a Maoist-affected village in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, received TV sets under a Chhattisgarh government initiative to promote development and extend benefits of welfare schemes to remotest villages.

- ❖ The Chhattisgarh government called the event a transformative milestone for the Bastar region which comprises seven districts, including Sukma.
- ❖ The initiative was launched under the Chhattisgarh government's Niyad Nellanar Yojana to promote development and extend the benefits of welfare schemes to the remotest villages.

Awards and Honors

Jamsetji Tata Award



Why in the news?

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, chairperson of Biocon Group, has been conferred the Jamsetji Tata award by the Indian Society for Quality (ISQ).

- ❖ The award recognises her remarkable contributions to pioneering the biosciences movement in India and serving patients in India and across the world while leading Biocon to a preeminent global position.
- ❖ Received the honour from Janak Kumar Mehta, president of ISQ and chairman and managing director of TQM international.

Obituary

Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain

Why in the news?

Zakir Hussain, considered one of the greatest players of the tabla or Indian drums and known for his “dancing fingers”, has died.

Early Life and Musical Journey

- ❖ Zakir Hussain was born on March 9, 1951, in Mumbai. His father, Ustad Alla Rakha, was a legendary tabla maestro, renowned for his jugalbandis with sitar virtuoso Pandit Ravi Shankar.

- ❖ Zakir also made significant contributions to cinema. His first film score was for Heat and Dust (1983), produced by Ismail Merchant, with Shashi Kapoor in the lead role. This collaboration extended to other films like In Custody (1993) and The Mystic Masseur (2001), both featuring Om Puri.
- ❖ He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1988, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1990, the Padma Bhushan in 2002, and the Padma Vibhushan (2023). In the USA, he received the National Heritage Fellowship, the highest honor in traditional arts and music.
- ❖ His collaboration with Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart on Planet Drum (1992) won a Grammy Award and the DownBeat Critics Poll for Best World Beat Album. Zakir also contributed to several film soundtracks and received a nomination at the 1983 Cannes Film Festival for his music in Heat and Dust.



- ❖ In 1984, Zakir launched the Zakir Hussain Rhythm Experience, his percussion ensemble. In 1991, he was honored by India's Sangeet Natak Akademi and later contributed to the music composition for the opening ceremony of the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

News in Short

- ❖ Chennai is home to India's first diabetes biobank, established by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in partnership with the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF).

- ❖ WTO members have agreed to grant Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala a second four-year term as Director-General, starting September 1, 2025.
- ❖ Former Manchester City player Mikheil Kavelashvili became president of Georgia.
- ❖ Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced plans for the state to become the first in India to implement a dedicated yoga policy. The policy aims to integrate Ayurveda and Yoga into the healthcare sector.



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