

Bihar Special

First Dry Port and Inland Container Depot of Bihar

Why in the news?

The first Dry Port & Inland Container Depot (ICD) of Bihar was inaugurated by Bihar Industries Minister Nitish Mishra in Bihta.

- ❖ A dry port is an inland terminal that is connected to a seaport by road or rail, and serves as a center for the transshipment of sea cargo to inland destinations.
- ❖ Dry ports offer services such as storage, consolidation, depot, and customs clearance.
- ❖ **Objective:**
 - It is aimed at boosting logistics through warehousing, customs services and multi-modal transport.

First Consignment from ICD Bihta:

- ❖ The first container of the railway is of leather goods. Leather goods mainly include shoes. These are being sent to Russia. Shoes of a particular company are sent from Hajipur to the Russian army.

How will it benefit Bihar's economy?

- ❖ **Strategic Game Changer:** The inaugural dry port (ICD) in Bihar by Pristine Logistics will revolutionize export logistics, enabling MSME units to book consignments directly from this facility.
- ❖ **Enhanced Connectivity:** Currently, exports from Bihar are routed through other states' ports like Haldia, Vizag, Chennai, Mundra, and JNPT. The new ICD will streamline this process, significantly improving access for goods destined for international markets.
- ❖ **Export Growth Potential:** In FY 22-23, Bihar's exports totaled ₹20,000 crore, predominantly facilitated by external ports. The new ICD will help retain and enhance these figures, directly contributing to the state's economy.
- ❖ **Incentives for MSMEs:** Under the state's export policy, MSME units booking through this ICD will be eligible for a 1% Free On Board (FOB) incentive, promoting local businesses and increasing their competitiveness.

- ❖ **Sector-Specific Advantages:** Key industries such as food processing and textiles, including products like litchi, maize, corn starch, makhana, ready-made garments, and silk, stand to benefit significantly from improved logistics and export capabilities.



International Relations

European Sky Shield Initiative

Why in the news?

Switzerland has signed a declaration to join the European Sky Shield Initiative.

What is the European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI)?

- ❖ It is a German-led project to build and develop a ground-based integrated European air defence system.
 - It includes anti-ballistic missile capabilities to protect European air space.

- ❖ It was launched in 2022 to address NATO and the European Union's "recognised European shortfall" in the realm of air and missile defence systems following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.



Environment And Geography

Z-Morh Tunnel

Why in the news?

It is a 6.4-kilometer tunnel connecting the Sonamarg health resort with Kangan town in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

- ❖ The tunnel has acquired its name for the Z-shaped road stretch at the place where the tunnel is being constructed.
- ❖ It provides all-weather connectivity to Sonamarg, a famous tourist destination on the Srinagar-Leh highway.

Strategic Importance of Tunnel:

- ❖ It is part of the Zojila tunnel project that aims to provide all-weather connectivity from Srinagar to Ladakh throughout the year.
- ❖ It is important, as it would provide quick access for military personnel to the border areas of Ladakh.



Defence And Security

Exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr

Why in the news?

The Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise “Naseem-Al-Bahr” was held in Goa.

- ❖ Naseem-Al-Bahr means “Sea Breeze”.

About the exercise:

- ❖ **Objective:**
 - To enhance interoperability, foster mutual understanding, and strengthen cohesion between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman.
- ❖ INS Trikanth and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from India participated with the Royal Navy of Oman Vessel Al Seeb.

- ❖ The exercise was conducted in two phases: with harbour phase from 13 to 15 October 24, followed by the sea phase.



Persons In News

Luong Cuong

Why in the news?

Luong Cuong has been elected as the new President of Vietnam.

- ❖ The ongoing 8th session of the 15th-tenure National Assembly (NA) elected Cuong as president for the tenure until 2026.

About Luong Cuong:

- ❖ He is a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee and a permanent member of the CPV Central Committee Secretariat.
- ❖ Born in Phu Tho Province, northern Vietnam in August 1957, Cuong has long served in the Vietnamese military.

- ❖ He has been a member of 13th-tenure Political Bureau of the CPV Central Committee and a deputy to the 15th-tenure National Assembly of Vietnam



Important Days/ Dates

18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Why in the news?

Odisha will host the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Bhubaneswar from the 8th to the 10th of January, 2025.

- ❖ The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was held at Indore in Madhya Pradesh in 2023.

About Pravasi Bharatiya Divas:

- ❖ The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated to commemorate the arrival of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi in India from South Africa on the 9th of January, 1915.

- ❖ India has been celebrating the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas since 2003 to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian Community to the development of the country.

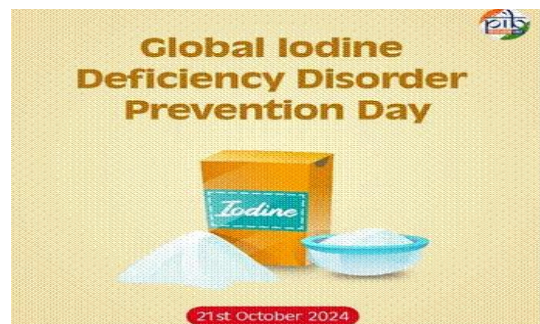


World Iodine Deficiency Day

Why in the news?

World Iodine Deficiency Day is observed annually on the 21st of October.

- ❖ It is also known as Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day.
- ❖ **Objective:**
 - To raise awareness about the essential role of iodine in maintaining good health and to emphasize the consequences of iodine deficiency.



News in Short

- ❖ Haryana will implement a panel recommendation dividing the Scheduled Caste (SC) community into two groups and apply sub-quotas.
 - With this, it became India's first state to put into action the Supreme Court's landmark verdict on subclassification of Dalit reservations.
- ❖ India will host four ATP Challenger Tour events in February 2025 starting from Chennai.
 - After Chennai, the next three tournaments will be held in Bengaluru, Pune and Delhi from February 10th to March 2nd, 2025.

- ❖ The Assam government has launched 'Mission Basundhara 3.0'.
 - It is an initiative to provide land rights to indigenous people in the state.
 - It aims to digitize land-related services and publish maps for the benefit of the people of Assam.
- ❖ IIT Madras will establish its first international research and innovation center in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



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