

17th Aug, 2024

Bihar Special

Announcement of New Job Target

Why in the news?

On Independence Day, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced a new goal to provide 12 lakh government jobs to youth by 2025, ahead of the State Assembly elections scheduled for October-November 2025.

- ❖ **Previous Commitment:** Initially, the government had promised 10 lakh government jobs. This target has been revised upward to 12 lakh.
- ❖ **Seven Resolves Scheme:** Under the 'Saat Nishchay Part-2' scheme, launched in 2020, the government had previously set a target to provide 10 lakh jobs and create employment opportunities for 10 lakh people.

Presidential Medals for Distinguished Service and Gallantry Awarded

Why in the news?

- ❖ **Presidential Medals for ADG Sanjay Singh and DSP Rajesh Kumar Sharma:**

➤ ADG Sanjay Singh and Bihar Special Armed Police-5's Senior DSP Rajesh Kumar Sharma received the prestigious Presidential Medal for distinguished service.

❖ 23 Medals Awarded to Bihar Police:

➤ Bihar Police received 23 medals, including five Gallantry Medals for bravery, awarded to five police officers.

Godavari Dutta

Why in the news?

Padma Shri awardee Godavari Dutta, renowned in the field of Mithila paintings, passed away recently at her residence in Ranti, within the Madhubani Municipal Corporation area. She was 94 years old.



Record Flag Hoisting by Bihar Chief Ministers

Why in the news?

In Bihar, the Chief Ministers who have performed the flag hoisting the most times are:

- ❖ **Nitish Kumar:** Hoisted the flag 18 times, becoming the Chief Minister with the highest number of flag hoisting on Independence Day.
- ❖ **Sri Krishna Singh:** Hoisted the flag 14 times.
- ❖ **Rabri Devi:** Hoisted the flag 8 times.
- ❖ **Lalu Prasad Yadav:** Hoisted the flag 7 times.

Environment And Geography

Three new wetlands of India got the status of Ramsar site

Why in the news?

India has increased its Ramsar sites from 82 to 85 by designating three additional wetlands, as announced by Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on the eve of Independence Day 2024.

Newly Designated Ramsar Sites:

- ❖ **Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)**
 - **Location:** Uthukuli Taluk, Tiruppur District
 - **Known for:** Rich biodiversity with 191 bird species and 87 butterfly species. It serves as a habitat for both resident and migratory birds and plays a vital role in groundwater recharge and agriculture.

- ❖ **Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)**
 - **Location:** Villupuram District
 - **Known for:** Brackish shallow lake connected to the Bay of Bengal, serving as a breeding ground for fish and birds, and an important site in the Central Asian Flyway.
- ❖ **Tawa Reservoir (Madhya Pradesh)**
 - **Location:** Near Itarsi town, within Satpura Tiger Reserve
 - **Known for:** Largest protected area in Madhya Pradesh, crucial for aquatic flora and fauna, and habitat for rare and endangered species.
- ❖ Currently, Tamil Nadu has the maximum number of Ramsar Sites (18 sites) followed by Uttar Pradesh (10 sites).

India Expands its Ramsar Wetland Network

3 New wetlands added to the Ramsar Sites:

- Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu
- Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu
- Tawa Reservoir, Madhya Pradesh

India increases the tally of Ramsar sites to **85**

Science And Technology

ISRO's Successful launch of SSLV D-3

Why in the news?

ISRO successfully launched the third development flight of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) from Sriharikota on August 16, 2024.

- ❖ This is the last SSLV mission authorized for ISRO, with future missions to be conducted by a private company.

Launch Overview:

- ❖ **Date:** August 16, 2024
- ❖ **Vehicle:** Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D3)
- ❖ **Launch Site:** Sriharikota
- ❖ **Payload:** 175-kg Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-08)
- ❖ **Outcome:** Successful placement of EOS-08 and SR-08 satellites into orbit
- ❖ **Vehicle Specifications:**
 - ❖ **Length:** 34 meters
 - ❖ **Diameter:** 2 meters
 - ❖ **Payload Capacity:** Up to 500 kg
 - ❖ **Stages:**
 - Three solid fuel-based stages
 - Final liquid-fuel stage for velocity correction

Commercialization and Future Plans:

- ❖ SSLV developed by ISRO to meet the growing global demand for small, rapidly assembled launch vehicles.



ISRO's SSLV-D3 carrying the Earth Observation Satellite EOS-08 successfully lifts off from Sriharikota

WHO Declares Monkeypox a Global Public Health Emergency

Why in the news?

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared monkeypox a Global Public Health Emergency (PHEIC), marking the second such declaration in two years.

- ❖ **Outbreak Origin:** The outbreak began in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- ❖ **Spread of New Variant:** A new variant of monkeypox has spread to neighbouring countries including Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda.

Monkeypox Overview

- ❖ **Cause:** Monkeypox virus (Orthopoxvirus genus).

Transmission:

- ❖ **Animal-to-Human:** Contact with infected animals (e.g., rodents, primates).
- ❖ **Human-to-Human:** Respiratory droplets, bodily fluids, contaminated materials.

Symptoms

- ❖ **Initial Symptoms:** Fever, headache, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes, chills, exhaustion.
- ❖ **Rash:** Progresses from macules to pustules and scabs.

Diagnosis

- ❖ **Testing:** Confirmed via PCR tests detecting virus DNA.

Treatment

- ❖ **Supportive Care:** Focus on symptom relief; no specific antiviral treatment.
- ❖ **Vaccination:** Smallpox vaccine offers some protection.

MONKEYPOX VIRUS



Schemes In News

Mukhyamantri Ladki Bahin Scheme

Why in the news?

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced the launch of the 'Mukhyamantri Ladki Bahin' scheme on August 17, 2024, two days before Raksha Bandhan.

- ❖ **Eligibility:** The scheme will provide financial assistance to underprivileged women aged 21 to 65 years.
- ❖ **Monthly Financial Aid:** Over one crore eligible women in the state will receive ₹1,500 per month under the scheme.

National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS)

Why in the news?

The Union government introduced the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS), an AI-powered platform aimed at assisting farmers with pest control.

- ❖ **Objective:** Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated that NPSS aims to reduce farmers' reliance on pesticide retailers and promote a scientific approach to pest management.

- ❖ **Technology Utilization:** The NPSS will leverage AI tools to analyze data and aid farmers and experts in pest control and management.

Key Features of NPSS

- ❖ **AI Integration:** The system will use artificial intelligence to identify pests and provide control measures.
- ❖ **Connectivity:** Farmers can use their mobile phones to send photos of infested crops or insects, which will be analyzed by scientists and experts.
- ❖ **Early Detection:** The technology aims to identify pest attacks early, allowing for faster and more effective treatment.

Benefits and Expectations

- ❖ **Farmer Support:** The system is designed to enhance productivity by providing timely pest management solutions, thereby benefiting farmers.
- ❖ **Pesticide Management:** Union Agriculture Secretary Devesh Chaturvedi emphasized that the system will help in using the correct amount of pesticide at the right time, improving treatment accuracy and potentially increasing production.

- ❖ **Soil Health:** The technology is expected to aid in preserving soil health by ensuring proper pesticide usage.

PM-KUSUM Program

Why in the news?



PM-KUSUM scheme aims to enhance solar energy infrastructure in agriculture by setting up 100 GW of solar power plants on farmer-owned land, installing 14 lakh solar pumps, and solarising 35 lakh grid-connected pumps.

- ❖ **Progress:** By June, 2024 only 256 MW of power plants, 3.97 lakh solar pumps, and 13,500 solarised pumps were installed. The deadline has been extended to 2026.

Persons In News

Rahul Navin

Why in the news?

Rahul Navin, a 1993 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, has been appointed as the full-time Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED). He hails from Karaini village in Gopalganj district, Bihar.

- ❖ **Term Duration:** His appointment is for a period of two years or until further orders.



Index and Report

Indira Gandhi International Airport Achieves Net Zero Carbon Emission Status

Why in the news?

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has become the first airport in India to achieve net zero carbon emission status under the Airport Council International's (ACI) Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) programme.

- ❖ The Airport Carbon Accreditation program has five levels that show an airport's progress in managing and reducing carbon emissions:
 - **Level 1: Mapping** - Airports measure and understand their direct carbon emissions.
 - **Level 2: Reduction** - Airports implement measures to actively reduce emissions.
 - **Level 3: Optimization** - Airports optimize operations and collaborate with stakeholders to further cut emissions.

- **Level 3+: Neutrality** - Airports offset remaining emissions to achieve carbon neutrality.
- **Level 4: Achieving Net Zero** - Airports commit to reaching net-zero emissions by a specific target year, with comprehensive emission reduction efforts.



Obituary

Ram Narayan Agrawal

Why in the news?

Renowned DRDO scientist Ram Narayan Agrawal, known as the father of the Agni missile, has passed away at the age of 84 in Hyderabad.

- ❖ Agrawal played a crucial role in India's long-range ballistic missile program and was the first program director of the Agni missiles.
- ❖ He was honoured with the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awards for his contributions.





News in Short

- ❖ IAS officer Govind Mohan has been appointed as India's next Home Secretary. Currently the Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, he will take over after the current Home Secretary, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, completes his tenure on August 22, 2024.
- ❖ On the eve of Independence Day 2024, President Droupadi Murmu approved 103 gallantry awards.
- ❖ Rajasthan Chief Minister's Bhajan Lal Sharma emphasised on launching the Ambedkar Gram Vikas Yojana on Independence Day Address.
- ❖ The Ambedkar Gram Vikas Yojana aims to enhance the development of rural areas, particularly focusing on improving living standards and infrastructure in villages with significant populations of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- ❖ Krutrim, an AI startup founded by Bhavish Aggarwal, plans to design, build, and launch its first AI chip by 2026. The startup introduced India's first AI chip family:
- ❖ "Bodhi": For AI applications.
- ❖ "Sarv": For general computing.
- ❖ "Ojas": For edge computing.
- ❖ India will host the third Voice of Global South Summit virtually on August 17, focusing on sustainable development for developing countries. The summit will address challenges like conflicts, food and energy security, and climate change, with the theme "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future."



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