

Bihar Special

Bihar Business Connect 2024' summit

Why in the news?

The two-day Bihar Business Connect Investors Summit concluded on 20th December, 2024.

- ❖ It attracted investments worth Rs 1.8 lakh crore in various sectors. It is three times more than the Rs 53,000 crore last year.

Key details of the investment:

- ❖ Adani Group has promised to invest Rs 20,000 crore to establish an ultra-supercritical thermal power plant and expand its footprint in cement production, warehouses and logistics.
- ❖ NHPC has planned to invest Rs 5,500 crore in renewable energy projects in the state. Likewise SLMG Beverages has signed MoU to invest Rs 3,000 crore for food processing.
- ❖ Shree Cement will invest Rs 800 crore for general manufacturing and Haldiram Snacks Pvt Ltd has plans to invest Rs 300 crore for the food processing sector.



Miscellaneous

Udaan Yatri Cafe

Why in the news?

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has announced the launch of "Udaan Yatri Cafe".

What is Udaan Yatri Cafe?

- ❖ It is an eatery outlet at the airport for providing basic essentials like food and water at affordable and reasonable rates.
- ❖ The one-of-its kind initiative is being launched at Kolkata airport on a pilot basis and if it turns successful, it will be replicated at other airports across the country, managed by the Airports Authority of India.



Awards and Honors

The Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer

Why in the news?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been bestowed with Kuwait's highest honour, the Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer.

- ❖ As per the External Affairs Ministry, this is the 20th international honour given to Prime Minister Modi by a country.

About the award:

- ❖ The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer is a knighthood order of Kuwait.
 - The award was instituted in 1974 and has since been conferred on select global leaders.
- ❖ It is awarded to Heads of State and foreign Sovereigns and to members of foreign royal families in sign of friendship.



Persons In News

Sanjay Kaul

Why in the news?

Retired Supreme Court judge Sanjay Kishan Kaul has been appointed a member of the Bahrain International Commercial Court (BICC) by King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

- ❖ He is among the nine members appointed to the newly established BICC.
- ❖ Leading arbitrator Jan Paulsson has been appointed as BICC president and former British judge Sir Christopher Greenwood as its vice president.

About BICC:

- ❖ It is a part of the Bahrain government's "Team Bahrain" to enhance private sector investment in the country by providing a forum for dispute resolution between parties.
- ❖ It will have exclusive jurisdiction within the country to hear international commercial disputes and will also be empowered to hear arbitration-related matters.

Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul

- ❖ His legal career began in 1982 after graduating from Campus Law Centre, Delhi University. He became an advocate-on-record in 1987 and was given the coveted senior advocate designation in 1999.
- His career in the judiciary began in May 2001 when he was appointed as a judge of the Delhi High Court.
- In September 2012, he served a brief 2-day stint as Acting Chief Justice of the Delhi HC.
- In June 2013, he was appointed the Chief Justice of the Punjab & Haryana HC before being transferred to the Madras HC in July 2014, where he served as the Chief Justice until February 2017.
- ❖ Justice Kaul retired on December 25, 2023, after serving as a judge of the apex court for over six years.
- ❖ During his tenure he authored decisions in several important rulings, including a concurring opinion in the landmark nine-judge bench case recognising the right to privacy as a fundamental right in 2017.



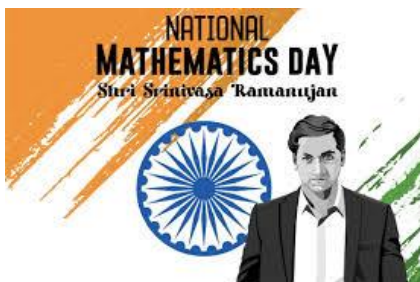
Important Days/ Dates

National Mathematics Day

Why in the news?

National Mathematics Day is celebrated every year in India on December 22.

- ❖ It honours the birth anniversary of the legendary Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- ❖ **Objective of this day:** To inspire students and the public to appreciate the beauty and relevance of mathematics in daily life and the sciences.
- ❖ **History of this day:**
 - It began in 2012, when the then Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh, announced the occasion to honour the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- ❖ **Theme 2024:** "Mathematics: Bridge to innovation".



National Farmers Day

Why in the news?

National Farmers' Day is observed on 23rd December every year.

- ❖ It is celebrated on 23rd December to mark the birth anniversary of the 5th Prime Minister of India, Choudhary Charan Singh.
- ❖ **Significance of this day:**
 - It serves as a reminder of the critical role that farmers play in India's economy.
- ❖ **Theme 2024:** 'Delivering Smart Solutions for Sustainable Food Security and Resilience'.

Role of Farmers in Nation-Building

- ❖ Farmers are the architects of rural development and nation-building, providing food security and sustaining the livelihoods of millions.
 - India's agricultural sector, employing nearly half of the nation's population, remains a cornerstone of the country's economy and a key driver of nation-building.
 - It contributes 17.7% to the Gross Value Added (GVA) at current prices in FY 2023-24. With approximately 54.8% of the country's 328.7 million hectares classified as agricultural land and a cropping intensity of 155.4% (as per the Land Use Statistics for 2021-22), farmers are the bedrock of this essential sector.

Key Schemes for Farmers:

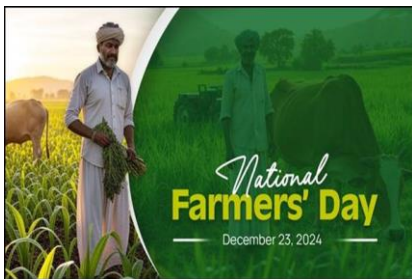
Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)	Launched on 24th February 2019, PM-KISAN aims to supplement the financial needs of landholding farmers across the country. Under this scheme, 6,000 is transferred directly into the bank accounts of farmers in three equal, four-monthly installments through the DBT mode. Since its inception, the Government of India has disbursed over 3.46 lakh crore in 18 installments, benefitting more than 11 crore farmers.
--	---



Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)	Launched in 2016, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) aims to provide farmers with affordable crop insurance, covering risks from pre-sowing to post-harvest stages against natural adversities, ensuring prompt and adequate compensation. Since its inception, the scheme has insured 68.85 crore farmer applications and disbursed 1,65,966 crore in claims.
Pradhan Mantri Kisan MaanDhan Yojana (PM-KMY)	Launched on 12th September 2019, PM-KMY provides security to vulnerable farmer families by offering a monthly pension. Farmers between the ages of 18 to 40 contribute monthly to the scheme, which is matched by the government. The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) manages the pension fund. As of 25th November 2024, over 24.66 lakh farmers have enrolled in the scheme, offering a financial safeguard during their old age.
Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)	The Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) provides concessional short-term agri-loans with a 7% interest rate on loans up to 3.00 lakh, plus an additional 3% subvention for timely repayment, reducing the effective rate to 4%. Since 2014-15, institutional credit flow to agriculture has nearly tripled from 8.5 lakh crore to 25.48 lakh crore by 2023-24. The disbursement of easy and concessional crop loans has more than doubled, with the interest subsidy through KCC increasing 2.4 times to 14,252 crore in 2023-24.
Kisan Credit Card (KCC)	Introduced in 1998, the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme provides farmers with easy access to agricultural inputs and cash for their production needs. In February 2019, RBI extended the KCC facility to Animal Husbandry and Fisheries for their working capital requirements. As of 31st March 2024, there are 7.75 crore operative KCC accounts.

**Agriculture
Infrastructure
Fund (AIF)**

The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme, launched in 2020 under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Package, supports sustainable agriculture by financing infrastructure projects across India. It provides loans up to 2 crore with a capped interest rate of 9%, along with a 3% annual interest subvention and reimbursement of credit guarantee fees for up to seven years, ensuring affordability for beneficiaries. As of 24th November 2024, ₹51,448 crore has been sanctioned for 84,333 projects under AIF.

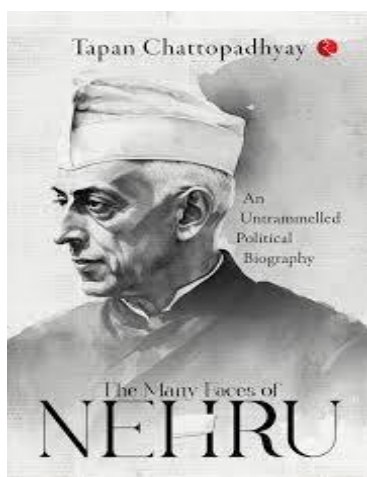


Books And Authors

The Many Faces of Nehru

Why in the news?

THE MANY FACES OF NEHRU: AN UNTRAMMELLED POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY has been authored by Dr Tapan Chattopadhyay.



- ❖ It is a relook at him in the light of new facts ferreted out during arduous research in India and abroad.
- ❖ As the title indicates, it does not follow given narratives, but is untrammelled and gives insights into the less-known facets of Nehru's personality and life.

News in Short

- ❖ The Indian Navy has declared 2024 as the 'Year of Naval Civilians' to enhance the efficiency in administration and well-being of its Civilian Personnel.
- ❖ The Para Athletics World Championships 2025, the world's largest single para sport event, will be held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium from September 26 to October 5, 2025 in New Delhi.

- For the first time, this event will be hosted in India.
- New Delhi 2025 will mark the 12th edition of the championships and the fourth time it is hosted in Asia, following Doha 2015, Dubai 2019 and Kobe 2024.

- ❖ India has launched its first-ever diabetes biobank in Chennai.
 - It is a collaboration between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF).



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

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