

**Bihar Special**

**Gandhian Statesman of Bihar: Nitish Kumar**

**Why in the news?**

Bihar Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar launched a book on Chief Minister Nitish Kumar titled 'Gandhian Statesman of Bihar: Nitish Kumar'.

- ❖ **Authors:** Bihar Minister Ashok Choudhary and his daughter, MP Shambhavi Choudhary.
- ❖ **Book Focus:** Highlights the contributions of Bihar's Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar, to the state's development.
- ❖ **Purpose:** Aim to educate the younger generation about Nitish Kumar's work.



**Bihar records the highest inflation**

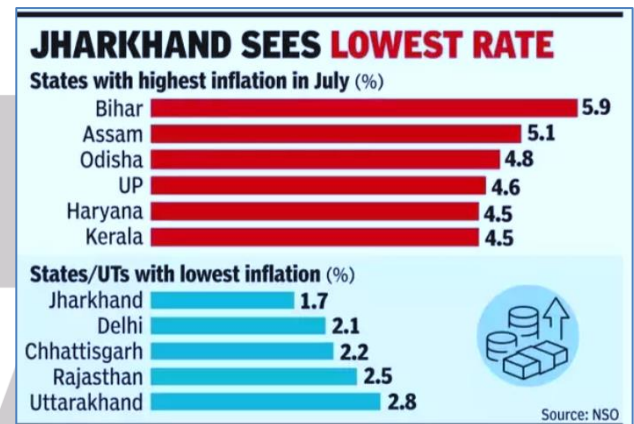
**Why in the news?**

Bihar recorded the highest inflation rate at 5.9% in July 2024.

- ❖ **Second Highest:** Assam followed with an inflation rate of 5.1%.
- ❖ **Lowest Inflation:** Jharkhand had the lowest rate at 1.7%.

**Other States:**

- ❖ Odisha: 4.8% inflation rate.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh: 4.6%.
- ❖ Haryana and Kerala: 4.5% each.
- ❖ **Inflation Data:** Out of 22 states and Union territories, 20 recorded inflation below 5%.
- ❖ **Overall Inflation:** Retail inflation in India softened to a near 5-year low in July, 2024 driven by moderating prices in vegetables, fruits, and spices, along with a statistical high-base effect.



**Polity And Governance**

**Six New Parliamentary Committees For 2024-25**

**Why in the news?**

Recently the Lok Sabha Speaker announced the members of six new Parliamentary Committees.

- ❖ **Public Accounts Committee (PAC):** Included among the newly formed committees, responsible for examining government expenditure.

- ❖ **Key Appointment:** Ganesh Singh, BJP MP from Satna, Madhya Pradesh, was appointed as Chairperson of the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

### 6 New Parliamentary Committees for 2024-25

- ❖ Public Account Committee
- ❖ Committee on Public Undertakings
- ❖ Committee on Estimates
- ❖ Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
- ❖ Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes
- ❖ Joint Committee on Office of Profit

### Committee on Welfare of OBCs:

- ❖ **Established:** 2012.
- ❖ **Functions:** Reviews reports from the National Commission for Backward Classes and assesses welfare measures for OBCs.

### Chairperson Appointments:

- ❖ **Welfare of SCs/STs Committee:** Dr. Fagga Singh Kulaste, BJP MP from Mandla, was appointed as Chairperson.
- ❖ **Public Undertakings Committee:** Baijayant Panda, BJP MP from Kendrapara, Odisha, was appointed as Chairperson.

## Environment And Geography

### Gross Environment Product Index

#### Why in the news?

Uttarakhand has become the first Indian state to launch a Gross Environment Product Index (GEPI).

#### About GEPI:

- ❖ GEPI is a novel method to evaluate ecological development caused by human interventions.
- ❖ **Four pillars of GEPI:** Air, Soil, trees and water.
- ❖ **Formula:**  $GEP\ index = (Air - GEP\ index + Water - GEP\ index + Soil - GEP\ index + Forest - GEP\ index)$

#### Significance:

- ❖ **Impact Assessment:** Evaluate the effects of anthropological pressure on ecosystems and natural resources.
- ❖ **Environmental Contribution:** Calculates what humanity returns to the environment.
- ❖ **Economic and Welfare Impact:** Quantifies the contributions of natural ecosystems to the economy and overall human welfare.

## Miscellaneous

### FSSAI launches a Project to Address Microplastic Contamination

#### Why in the news?

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched a project to address microplastic contamination in India's food supply.

- ❖ **Project Title:** "Micro-and Nano-Plastics as Emerging Food Contaminants."

- ❖ **Objective:** Develop and standardize methods for detecting micro and nano-plastics in food and assess their prevalence and risks.
- ❖ **Collaboration:** Conducted with research institutions like CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (Lucknow), ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (Kochi), and Birla Institute of Technology and Science (Pilani).
- ❖ **Actions:** Standardized protocols, conduct lab comparisons, and generate data on microplastic exposure among Indian consumers.
- ❖ **Global Context:** The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) report highlights microplastics in common food items like sugar and salt.
- ❖ **Importance for India:** There is an urgent need for specific data on microplastics' health impacts.

### Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

#### Why in the news?

Dahisar and Kandivali in Mumbai have been added to the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

#### Amrit Bharat Station Scheme:

- ❖ **Launch date:** August, 2023
- ❖ **Objective:** Upgrade and modernize railway stations to provide enhanced, modern facilities for passengers.
- ❖ **Scope:** Aim to upgrade a total of 1,275 stations.

#### Key Features:

- ❖ Develop Master Plans for long-term improvements, including better accessibility and free Wi-Fi.
- ❖ Promote initiatives like 'One Station One Product.'
- ❖ Enable seamless multi-modal connectivity.
- ❖ Position stations as city centers, drivers of local economies, and facilitate Transit Oriented Development.

### Bank of Baroda

#### Why in the news?

Bank of Baroda inaugurates a 'Phygital' branch at Chanda Nagar in Hyderabad

- ❖ **Features:** Integrates self-service and assisted service models to meet diverse customer needs.

#### Phygital Branch

- ❖ A phygital branch is a mix of digital and physical branches where self-service and assisted service models are integrated for the convenience of customers.
- ❖ This is the first Phygital branch of the BoB in Telangana and the second in the country. The first one was inaugurated in Mumbai.

### Sports

### German Super Cup

#### Why in the news?

Leverkusen defeated Stuttgart on penalties to win the German Super Cup

**Previous Season:** Leverkusen went unbeaten for 51 games last season, losing only the Europa League final to Atlanta, and won the German double.

**Game Context:** In the first game of the 2024-25 season, they nearly faced a surprise defeat against Bundesliga runners-up Stuttgart.

#### Key Moments:

- ❖ **Leverkusen's Goal:** Victor Boniface scored the opener from an Edmond Tapsoba header.
- ❖ **Stuttgart's Response:** Enzo Millot equalized with a 16-yard first-time drive in the 15th minute.
- ❖ **Final Outcome:** Leverkusen secured victory on penalties after the late equalizer.
- ❖ This is Bayer Leverkusen's **fifth major trophy** in their history, following last season's German league and cup victories, the 1993 German Cup, and the 1988 UEFA Cup.

#### German Super Cup

- ❖ The DFL-Supercup or German Super Cup is a one-off football match in Germany that features the winners of the Bundesliga championship and the DFB-Pokal.
- ❖ **Founded:** 28 July 1987

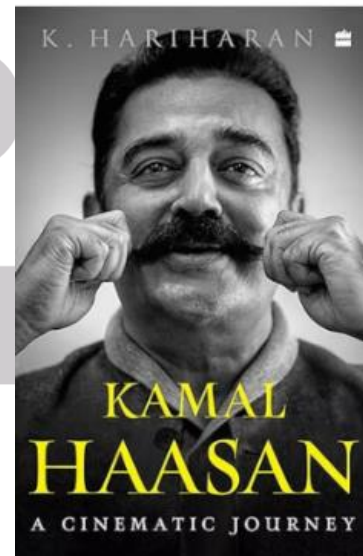


#### Books And Authors

#### Kamal Haasan: A Cinematic Journey

#### Why in the news?

- ❖ **Author:** K Hariharan
- ❖ **Publisher:** Harper Collins



#### News in Short

- ❖ Indian Coast Guard chief Rakesh Pal died of a cardiac arrest in Chennai.



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