

Bihar Special

Bihar Vikas Mission

Why in the news?

- ❖ Bihar Vikas Mission has released the ranking of districts for July 2024 based on the achievement of the district in important schemes of Saat Nishchay-One and Saat Nishchay-Two every month.
- ❖ According to the ranking released, Araria district topped the list, while Madhubani district was ranked lowest.
- ❖ Araria district achieved a success rate of 76.22%, Buxar 74.90%, Nalanda 74.21%, Muzaffarpur 73.41%, Samastipur 72.77%, Kaimur 72.77%, Lakhisarai 72.18%, Rohtas 71.16%, Siwan 70.06% and Kishanganj has achieved 68.65% achievement.
- ❖ The bottom five districts are Madhubani, Madhepura, Vaishali, Saharsa and Begusarai.

Saat Nishchay:

- ❖ The Bihar government has started its Saat Nishchay scheme to meet the basic needs of the citizens of the state.



Economy

India's Leadership in Global Cryptocurrency Adoption

Why in the news?

According to a recent report by blockchain analytics company Chainalysis, India has been at the forefront of global adoption of cryptocurrency for the second consecutive year.

- ❖ The report, which tracks adoption across four sub-categories in 151 countries, showed India ranked high on usage of centralized exchange and decentralized finance assets from June 2023 to July 2024.
- ❖ Investors in India remained active despite tough regulations and steep trading taxes.
- ❖ India ranked high in the use of both centralized exchanges and decentralized finance assets.

Regulatory Challenges:

- ❖ India has maintained a strict stance on cryptocurrencies since 2018.
- ❖ The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) issued show-cause notices to nine offshore crypto exchanges in December 2023 for non-compliance with local rules.

Widespread Adoption:

- ❖ India showed broad adoption across various crypto assets, suggesting new participants used services not explicitly banned by regulations.

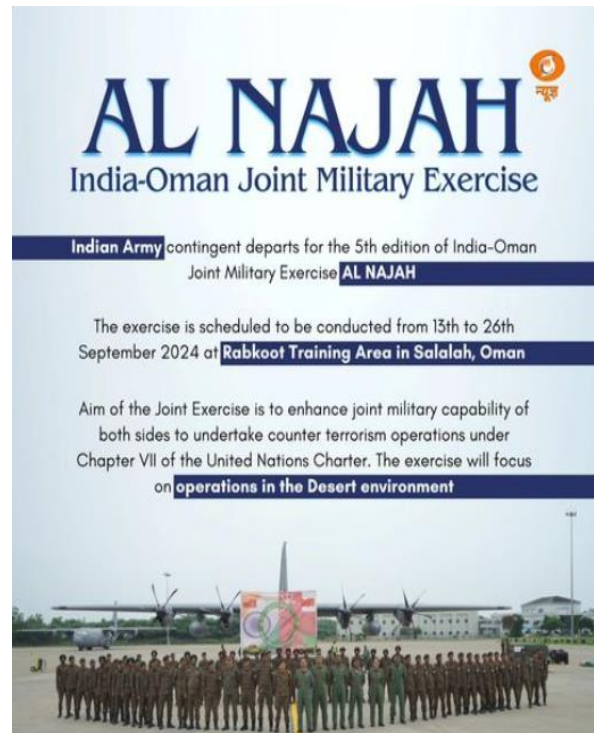
Defence And Security

India-Oman Joint Military Exercise "AL NAJAH".

Why in the news?

The Indian Army's contingent has departed for the 5th edition of India-Oman Joint Military Exercise "AL NAJAH".

- ❖ The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 13th to 26th September 2024 at Rabkoot Training Area in Salalah, Oman
- ❖ The Exercise AL NAJAH has been held biennially since 2015, alternating between India and Oman. The last edition of the same exercise was conducted at Mahajan in Rajasthan.



Schemes In News

Health Coverage for Senior Citizens under AB PM-JAY

Why in the news?

Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved health coverage for all senior citizens aged 70 years and above irrespective of income under the flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

- ❖ This aims to benefit approximately 4.5 Crore families with six (6) crore senior citizens with 5 Lakh rupees free health insurance cover on a family basis.

Eligibility and Coverage:

- ❖ All senior citizens aged 70+ are eligible, regardless of socio-economic status.
- ❖ A new distinct card was issued under AB PM-JAY for eligible senior citizens.
- ❖ Senior citizens already covered under AB PM-JAY get an additional top-up cover of ₹5 lakh per year (not shared with younger family members).

Choice for Existing Beneficiaries:

- ❖ Senior citizens with other public health schemes (CGHS, ECHS, CAPF) can choose between their current scheme or AB PM-JAY.
- ❖ Senior citizens with private health insurance or Employees' State Insurance are also eligible to opt for AB PM-JAY benefits.

Overview of AB PM-JAY:

- ❖ World's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme.
- ❖ Provides ₹5 lakh health cover per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

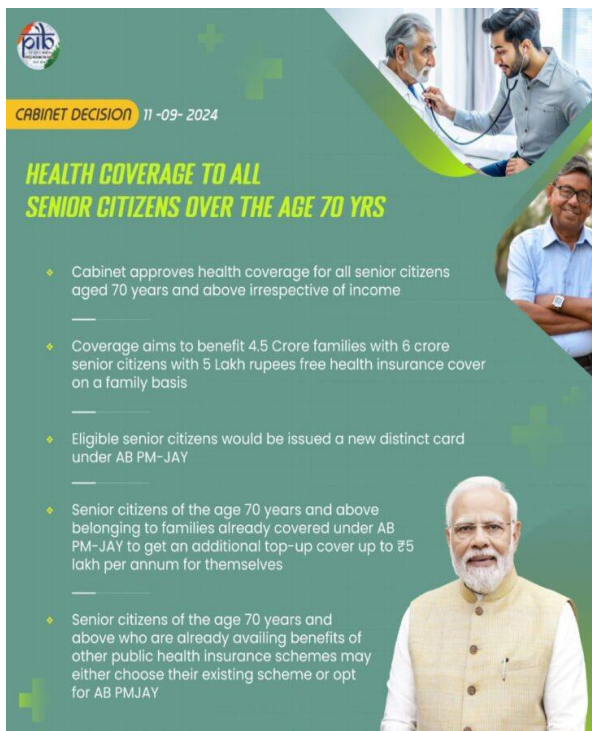
- ❖ Covers 55 crore individuals across 12.34 crore families.
- ❖ Covers all family members, irrespective of age.
- ❖ Over 7.37 crore hospital admissions, with 49% women beneficiaries.
- ❖ Total benefits extended worth over ₹1 lakh crore.

Expansion for Senior Citizens:

- ❖ In April 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the expansion to cover senior citizens aged 70 years and above.
- ❖ Senior citizens across India will receive free healthcare coverage of ₹5 lakh per year.

Expansion of Beneficiary Base:

- ❖ Initially covered 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families (bottom 40% of India's population).
- ❖ Revised in January 2022 to cover 12 crore families due to population growth.
- ❖ Further expanded to include 37 lakh ASHAs, AWWs, AWHs and their families.



Hydro Electric Projects (HEPs)

Why in the news?

Recently the Union Cabinet approved a revised scheme for budgetary support to hydroelectric projects.

- ❖ **Duration:** Scheme to run from FY 2024-25 to FY 2031-32.
- ❖ **Total Allocation:** ₹12,461 crore.
- ❖ **Target Capacity:** Supports hydro-power projects with a cumulative generation capacity of 31,350 MW.
- ❖ Applies to projects over 25 MW, including private-sector projects.
- ❖ Covers projects with a total capacity of around 15,000 MW.

Scope of Funding:

- ❖ Transmission lines, pooling substations.
- ❖ Development of ropeways, railway sidings, and communication infrastructure.
- ❖ Upgrading roads and bridges leading to project sites.

Budgetary Support Limits:

- ❖ ₹1 crore per MW for projects up to 200 MW.
- ❖ ₹200 crore + ₹0.75 crore per MW for projects above 200 MW.
- ❖ Support can go up to ₹1.5 crore per MW in exceptional cases.

Budgetary support to be granted after cost appraisal by:

- ❖ Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIB).
- ❖ Public Investment Board (PIB).
- ❖ Final approval by the Competent Authority.

Miscellaneous

Spices Board of India

Why in the news?

The Spices Board of India introduced a mobile application called 'CardsApp' to encourage cardamom production.

- ❖ **Event:** Indian Cardamom Research Institute in Myladumpara, Idukki.
- ❖ **Inauguration by:** K.G. Jagadeesha, Secretary of the Spices Board,

CardsApp Mobile Application:

- ❖ Aimed at enhancing cardamom production.
- ❖ Provides vital soil test results and a Soil Fertility Map.
- ❖ Covers samples from 19 villages in the Udumbanchola and Idukki regions.

Spices Incubation Centre- launched the Spices Incubation Centre at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, and the Kisan Seva Kendra, a dedicated farmer facilitation centre.

- ❖ The Kisan Seva Kendra aims to support the spice farmers and provide solutions to various challenges in the agricultural sector.

2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation

Why in the news?

The 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation concluded with the unanimous adoption of the Delhi Declaration.

Event Details:

- ❖ Held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from September 11 to 12, 2024.
- ❖ Hosted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, in collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- ❖ Attended by delegates from 29 countries, including ministers, policymakers, and eight international organizations.

Adoption of Delhi Declaration:

- ❖ Unanimously adopted as a comprehensive framework to enhance regional cooperation, address challenges, and promote sustainable growth in the Asia-Pacific aviation sector.
- ❖ Major outcome of the conference, marking a significant milestone in regional collaboration.

Prime Minister Modi's Address:

- ❖ Highlighted India's aviation advancements, noting that 15% of Indian pilots are women, surpassing the global average of 5%.

- ❖ Stressed the importance of making the aviation sector more inclusive and accessible.
- ❖ Proposed the creation of an "International Buddhist Circuit" to connect holy places related to Lord Buddha across Asia, benefiting civil aviation, tourism, and regional economies.

Aviation Transformation:

- ❖ Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu lauded India's goal of establishing 350-400 airports by 2047.
- ❖ Mentioned the "Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam" initiative, where 80,000 saplings were planted to commemorate ICAO's 80 years.

ICAO's Role:

- ❖ ICAO President Salvatore emphasized the importance of safety and security in the aviation sector.
- ❖ ICAO also presented plans for establishing the Pacific Small Island Developing States Liaison Office to assist smaller nations with aviation challenges.

Commemorations:

- ❖ Celebrated ICAO's 80th anniversary and the Chicago Convention, recognizing its role in shaping international aviation standards.



Awards and Honors

National Florence Nightingale Awards

Why in the Awards?

The President of India presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the year 2024 to 15 people.

About the National Florence Nightingale Award

- ❖ This award is given as a mark of recognition for meritorious services rendered by nurses and nursing professionals to society.
- ❖ It was instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 1973.

- ❖ Each award consists of a certificate of merit, a cash prize of Rs.1,00,000/- and a medal.
- ❖ Florence Nightingale was a British nurse, statistician, and social reformer who was the founding philosopher of modern nursing.



Obituary

Sitaram Yechury

Why in the news?

Veteran leader of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Sitaram Yechury, passed away.

Sitaram Yechury: A Stalwart of Indian Left Politics

Early Political Involvement:

- ❖ Vegan activism as a student at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi.
- ❖ Elected president of JNU Students' Union.

- ❖ Joined the Students' Federation of India (SFI), the student wing of CPI(M).

Career in CPI(M):

- ❖ Formally joined CPI(M) in 1975.
- ❖ Rose through party ranks as a prominent spokesperson.
- ❖ Advocated for worker rights, land reforms, and secularism.

Parliamentary Role:

- ❖ Member of Rajya Sabha from 2005 to 2017.
- ❖ Gained respect for his debating and oratory skills, even from political opponents.

Leadership as General Secretary:

- ❖ Elected general secretary of CPI(M) in 2015, succeeding Prakash Karat.
- ❖ Led the party during a period of declining electoral influence, particularly after the 2011 loss in West Bengal.
- ❖ Advocated for broader coalitions with left-wing and secular parties, leading to some internal disagreements.

Sitaram Yechury's Role in Bihar Politics:

- ❖ Sitaram Yechury, a former student leader, became deeply involved in Bihar's politics in 1990, regularly visiting the state after joining CPI(M)'s Central Committee.
- ❖ **Support for Lalu Prasad's Government:** CPI(M) supported Lalu Prasad's government in 1990 from the outside, and Yechury took on greater responsibility in Bihar.
- ❖ **Role in Opposing Anti-Poor Policies:** Yechury played a key role in opposing Lalu Prasad's government on issues affecting the poor, particularly during the animal husbandry scam, to prevent the BJP or Congress from gaining power in the state.
- ❖ **Land Struggle:** Between 1990-94, Yechury led CPI(M) in a significant land struggle, which resulted in the liberation of thousands of acres of land, balancing support and opposition to the government to prevent the rise of BJP or Congress in Bihar.



News in Short

- ❖ Mohammad Tayyab Ikram is set to become the President of the Federation Internationale Hockey (FIH- International Hockey Federation) for the second term. He has been serving as the 13th president of FIH since 2022.
- ❖ Union Bank of India become a signatory to the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF).
- ❖ PCAF is a global partnership of financial institutions working to develop and implement a harmonised approach to assess and disclose greenhouse gas emissions associated with loans and investments.



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