

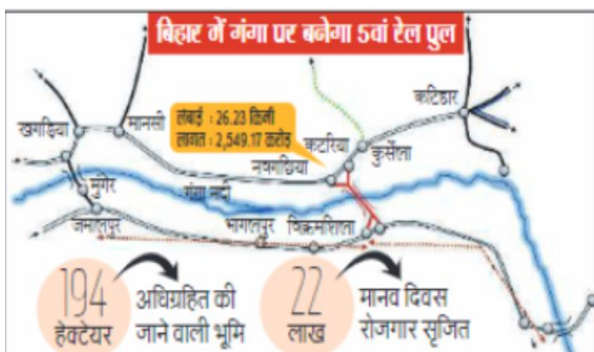
Bihar Special

Vikramshila-Kataria rail project

Why in the news?

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved eight major railway projects.

- ❖ **Notable Project:** Includes the Vikramshila-Kataria rail bridge project on the Ganges at Kahalgaon, Bhagalpur,
- ❖ **Objective:** These projects are part of the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan, aimed at integrating multi-modal connectivity and enhancing the efficiency and reliability of Indian Railways.
- ❖ **Project Length:** The Vikramshila-Kataria rail project will span 26.23 km, including a 2.44 km long main bridge.
- ❖ **Cost:** The construction of this project will cost Rs 2,549.17 crore.
- ❖ **Completion Timeline:** These projects are expected to be completed by 2030-31.



Polity And Governance

Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024

Why in the news?

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was introduced in Lok Sabha on August 8, 2024. It amends the Waqf Act, 1995.

The Act regulates waqf property in India.

Previous Amendments: Amendments were previously made in 2013 based on the Sachar Committee and Joint Parliamentary Committee reports.

Objectives:

- ❖ Address issues related to the powers of State Waqf Boards, registration, and survey of waqf properties.
- ❖ Enhance the efficiency of waqf property administration and management.

Key Features:

- ❖ **Database:** A database of waqf and related properties must be registered on a portal within six months of the act's commencement.
- ❖ **Definition of Waqf:** Defined as waqf by individuals practicing Islam for at least five years and owning the property.

- ❖ **Representation:** Ensures women's and non-Muslim representation on the Central Waqf Council and state boards.
- ❖ **Audit:** The Central Government can direct audits of waqf properties by auditors appointed by the Comptroller and Auditor-General or designated officers.
- ❖ **Dispute Resolution:** The District Collector will determine if the disputed properties are Waqf or government land.

International Relations

India Forms Committee to Oversee Situation on Bangladesh Border

Why in the news?

The Indian government announced a five-member committee to monitor and assess the situation along the India-Bangladesh border.

- ❖ **Ministry Decision:** The decision was made by the Border Management Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) through a formal order.
- ❖ **Committee Chair:** Ravi Gandhi, Additional Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF), Eastern Command, will chair the committee.

- ❖ **Committee Members:**
 - Inspector General (IG) of BSF Frontier Headquarters South Bengal
 - IG of BSF Frontier Headquarters Tripura
 - A Member from the Planning and Development division of the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)
 - Secretary of LPAI
- ❖ **Key Responsibilities:** The committee will maintain open communication with Bangladeshi counterparts to ensure the safety of Indian citizens and minority communities in Bangladesh.

Environment And Geography

Country's Third Largest Tiger Reserve

Why in the news?

The third largest tiger reserve in the country is set to come up in Chhattisgarh "Guru Ghasidas- Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve", spread over an area of 2829.387 sq km.

- ❖ The reserve will include Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary.

- ❖ This will be Chhattisgarh's fourth tiger reserve.
- ❖ The new tiger reserve covers five districts, Mahendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Korya, Surajpur, and Balrampur.

Reasons for establishing a new tiger reserve: According to a National Tiger Conservation Authority report released in July 2023, Chhattisgarh's tiger population decreased from 46 in 2014 to 17 in 2022.

Current Tiger Reserves in Chhattisgarh:

- ❖ Achanakmar Tiger Reserve in Mungeli district,
- ❖ Indravati Tiger Reserve in Bijapur district,
- ❖ Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve in Gariaband district.

Science And Technology

lightest bulletproof jacket

Why in the news?

DRDO has developed the Bullet Proof Jacket consisting of the lightest Front Hard Armour Panel.

- ❖ A new Level 6 bulletproof jacket, weighing just over 10 kilograms for medium size, has been introduced.

- ❖ This lightweight design improves wearability and comfort during operations.
- ❖ The jacket also features a unique Quick Release Mechanism, enhancing its usability and efficiency.



Schemes In News

Clean Plant Programme

Why in the news?

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Clean Plant Programme (CPP) with an investment of Rs 1765.65 crore to revolutionize the horticulture sector in India.

Establishment of Clean Plant Centres:

Nine state-of-the-art Clean Plant Centres (CPCs) will be established across India under the Clean Plant Programme (CPP).

Locations and Focus:

CABINET DECISION
9th AUGUST, 2024

Cabinet approves the **Clean Plant Programme (CPP)** under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture



- Investment of Rs.1,765.67 Cr
- CPP will provide access to virus-free, high-quality planting material to farmers regardless of their landholding size or socioeconomic status
- Streamlined certification processes & infrastructure support to nurseries
- Nine world class state-of-the-art Clean Plant Centers will be established across India
- It will address diverse agro-climatic conditions across India by developing region-specific clean plant varieties & technologies

- ❖ Grapes (NRC, Pune), Temperate Fruits - Apple, Almond, Walnuts (CITH, Srinagar & Mukteshwar), Citrus Fruits (CCRI, Nagpur & CIAH, Bikaner), Mango / Guava / Avocado (IIHR, Bengaluru), Mango / Guava / Litchi (CISH, Lucknow), Pomegranate (NRC, Sholapur), Tropical / Sub-Tropical Fruits in Eastern India
- ❖ Objectives: The centres will produce and maintain virus-free planting material, ensuring larger propagation and better crop yields.

Miscellaneous

India's first 'rice ATM'

Why in the news?

Odisha introduces the first-ever round-the-clock grain ATM, known as the 'rice ATM.'

- ❖ **Objective:** Aims to revolutionize the Public Distribution System (PDS) for ration cardholders.
- ❖ **Location:** The machine is installed at a warehouse in Mancheswar, Odisha.
- ❖ **Inauguration:** Launched by Odisha Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra.
- ❖ **Functionality:** The Annapurti Grain ATM can dispense up to 50 kg of grain in just five minutes.
- ❖ **Efficiency:** It has a minimal error rate of only 0.01%.

81st Anniversary of 'Quit India Movement'

Why in the news?

India marked the 81st anniversary of the historic 'Quit India Movement', a pivotal moment in the country's struggle for independence from British colonial rule.

- ❖ **Solemn Observance:** The Rajya Sabha, India's upper house of parliament, led by Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, observed the anniversary of the Quit India Movement.

- ❖ **Historical Context:** The Quit India Movement was launched on August 9, 1942, following Mahatma Gandhi's "Do or Die" speech at the Bombay session of the Congress on August 8, 1942.
- ❖ **Post-Independence Progress:** The Vice President recognized efforts in poverty alleviation, literacy promotion, and social inclusivity, expressing pride in the nation's progress as it approaches its centenary in 2047.

New varieties of coconut and cocoa

Why in the news?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Launch New Crop Varieties Including CPCRI's Coconut and Cocoa Varieties

Launch Date: August 11, 2024.

CPCRI Varieties:

Coconut Varieties:

- ❖ 'Kalpa Suvarna'
- ❖ 'Kalpa Shatabdi'

Cocoa Varieties:

- ❖ 'VTL CH1'
- ❖ 'VTL CH2'

Institute: The varieties are developed by the Kasaragod-based Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI).

Sports

Paris Olympics 2024: Aman Sehrawat won silver medal

Why in the news?

Aman Sehrawat Becomes India's Youngest Olympic Silver Medalist in Wrestling.

- ❖ Won- bronze in the men's freestyle 57kg event at the Paris 2024 Olympics wrestling tournament.
- ❖ **Record Achievement:** At 21 years and 24 days, Aman Sehrawat surpasses PV Sindhu's record to become India's youngest Olympic silver medalist.
- ❖ **Previous Record:** PV Sindhu was 21 years, one month, and 14 days old when she won silver at the Rio 2016 Olympics.
- ❖ **Medal Milestone:** This is India's first medal in wrestling event at Paris Olympics 2024, sixth Olympic medal overall.

AMAN SEHRAWAT'S CAREER MILESTONES

Olympic Games
Bronze - 2024 Paris, 57 kg
Asian Wrestling Championships
Gold - 2023 Astana, 57 kg
Asian Games
Bronze - 2022 Hangzhou, 57 kg
Grand Prix
Gold - 2022 Almaty, 57 kg
Gold - 2024 Zagreb, 57 kg
Silver - 2022 Tunis, 61 kg
Silver - 2024 Budapest, 57 kg

Bronze - 2023 Zagreb, 57 kg
Yasar Dogu Tournament
Bronze - 2022 Istanbul, 57 kg
Dan Kolov & Nikola Petrov Tournament
Silver - 2022 Veliko Tarnovo, 57 kg
World U-23 Wrestling Championships
Gold - 2022 Pontevedra, 57 kg
Asian U-23 Wrestling Championships
Gold - 2022 Bishkek, 57 kg

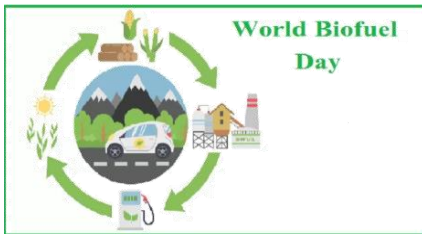
Stats: Hindol Basu

Important Days/ Dates

World Biofuel Day

Why in the news?

World Biofuel Day is observed on August 10 annually to create awareness about the importance of biofuels that are made from biological materials like agricultural waste, animal waste, algae, trees, crops, or even grass.



- ❖ The theme for World Biofuel Day 2024 is “Sustainable Biofuels: Fueling a Greener Future”, emphasizing the importance of developing and utilizing biofuels sustainably to ensure long-term environmental benefits.

World Lion Day

Why in the news?

World Lion Day was established by Big Cat Rescue, the largest accredited sanctuary for big cats.

- ❖ Celebrated on August 10th each year.
- ❖ Purpose: A global occasion to honor lions and raise awareness about their declining numbers and the urgent need for conservation.
- ❖ Focus: Celebrates the strength and magnificence of lions while promoting efforts to protect them.

News in Short

- ❖ Tunisian President Kais Saied has appointed Kamel Madouri as the new Prime Minister of Tunisia.
- ❖ The Indian Olympic Association has nominated hockey player P.R. Sreejesh as the joint flag-bearer with ace shooter Manu Bhaker for the Paris Olympic Games, 2024 Closing Ceremony.



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