

Bihar Special

Bihar Circle's Postal Museum

Why in the news?

Bihar Circle's Postal Museum is the fourth in the country.

- ❖ The first postal museum is being opened in Patna GPO in Bihar Circle. This is the fourth state in the country where a postal museum has been opened.
- ❖ This will provide all the information related to postage stamps in Bihar.

International Relations

11th D-8 Summit

Why in the news?

The 11th summit meeting of the Developing Eight (D-8) Organization for Economic Cooperation was held in the New Administrative Capital of Egypt on 19 December 2024.

- ❖ The New Administrative Capital of Egypt is being built on the outskirts of the present capital city of Cairo, and it is intended to be the new capital of Egypt.
- ❖ The 10th summit meeting of D-8 countries was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 8th April 2021.

- ❖ Indonesia will host the 12th D-8 summit meeting in 2025.
- ❖ The theme of the 11th D-8 Summit meeting was "Investing in Youth and Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises: Towards Shaping the Economy of Tomorrow."
- ❖ The Egyptian government hosted the 11th D-8 Summit Meeting, which was inaugurated by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi.

About D-8 Organization

- ❖ The D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation is a multilateral forum of eight Islamic countries: Egypt, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Iran, Pakistan, and Turkiye.
- ❖ It was officially set up in June 1997 at the summit meeting of the Heads of State/Government of the eight countries in Istanbul, Turkiye.



1,000 MT of humanitarian aid to Lesotho

Why in the news?

India has extended humanitarian assistance to Lesotho, a country in Southern Africa.

- ❖ A consignment of one thousand metric tonnes has departed from Nhava Sheva Port for Lesotho.
- ❖ The consignment would help in addressing food security and nutritional requirements of the people of that country.

Economy

NITI Aayog releases Report on 'SAFE'

Why in the news?

Recently NITI Aayog released a report on the **Site Adjacent Factory Employee (S.A.F.E.) Accommodation—Worker Housing for Manufacturing Growth in New Delhi.**

- ❖ The report explores the crucial role of secure, affordable, flexible, and efficient accommodations for industrial workers in boosting India's manufacturing sector.
- ❖ It identifies key challenges, offers actionable solutions, and highlights the pivotal interventions required to scale up such housing facilities across the country.



- ❖ Development of dormitory-style rental housing for industrial workers under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- ❖ **Funding and Support** - Supported through Viability Gap Funding (VGF) and commitments from anchor industries.

About SAFE

- ❖ It includes rented, long-term dormitory-style accommodation, exclusively for workers in industries, strategically located near workplaces.
- ❖ It includes essential amenities such as water, electricity, etc., and excludes family housing.
- ❖ Ownership of these units cannot be transferred or sold to workers or employers.

Awards and Honors

69th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar 2024

Why in the news?

Indian Railways is set to honour **101 dedicated employees** and officers with the prestigious **69th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar 2024** for their outstanding contributions.

- ❖ The award ceremony, themed “Mai Hoon Bhartiya Rail,” will take place on December 21, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Recognition of Railway Personnel and Zones

Individual Excellence

- ❖ Total Recognized: 101 Railway personnel across various categories.
- ❖ Innovation and Efficiency: 15 employees were honored for contributions to innovation, productivity, reducing import dependency, and indigenous technology.
- ❖ Bravery and Safety: 16 employees were awarded for safeguarding lives and Railway property.
- ❖ Revenue Generation: 17 employees recognized for enhancing revenue and combating ticketless travel.
- ❖ Operational Excellence: 22 employees were acknowledged for contributions to operations, safety, and asset protection.
- ❖ Project Completion: 16 employees were awarded for completing projects in record time.
- ❖ Sports Achievements: 2 sportsmen honored for outstanding national and international performances.

- ❖ Departmental Contributions: 13 employees from various departments were recognized for significant efforts.

Zone Performance Awards

- ❖ Shields for Excellence: 22 Shields are to be presented to the best-performing railway zones across various categories.

75th Berlin International Film Festival

Why in the news?

Tilda Swinton, who is known for working in 'The Deep End', 'Vanilla Sky', 'Adaptation', and 'Young Adam', is all set to receive an honorary Golden Bear at the

75th Berlin International Film Festival.

- ❖ She will receive an honorary Golden Bear for her lifetime achievement.
- ❖ The award will be presented at the opening ceremony of the Berlinale Palast on February 13, 2025.



Sports

Para Athletics World Championships 2025

Why in the news?

The Para Athletics World Championships, the world's largest single Para sport event, will be held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium from 26 September to 5 October 2025.

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Doha, Qatar, was the first Asian city to host the World Para Athletics Championships in 2015.
- ❖ Dubai, UAE, hosted it in 2019, and Kobe, Japan, hosted the Championships in 2024.
- ❖ New Delhi will host the 12th World Para Athletics Championships from 26 September -5 October 2025 at the JawaharLal Nehru Stadium.
- ❖ The World Para Athletics has also awarded the World Para Athletics Grand Prix to New Delhi. It will be held at the JawaharLal Nehru Stadium from 11-13 March 2025.



Important Days/ Dates

Goa Liberation Day 2024

Why in the news?

Goa Liberation Day is celebrated every year on December 19 to mark the freedom of Goa from Portuguese rule in 1961.

- ❖ This ended the struggle of freedom fighters against the 451 years of colonial rule.



International Human Solidarity Day 2024

Why in the news?

International Human Solidarity Day is observed annually on December 20.

- ❖ The day was created by the UN on **December 22, 2005** as a worldwide celebration to highlight the value of solidarity in accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to encourage unity in diversity.



World Meditation Day

Why in the news?

The world will observe **21st December 2024** as the first World Meditation Day.

- ❖ The United Nations designated 21st December as World Meditation Day in a resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly on **29 November 2024**.
- ❖ The theme of the first World Meditation Day is **"Inner Peace, Global Harmony"**.



News in Short

- ❖ Veteran Malayalam actress Meena Ganesh passed away at 81.
- ❖ The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) celebrated its 61st Raising Day on December 20, 2024, in Ranidanga, Siliguri.
- ❖ During the three-day Nagaland Literature Festival, Bihar Hindi Sahitya Sammelan President Dr. Anil Sulabh was honoured with Hindi Gaurav Samman.
- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has awarded prominent Indian environmentalist Madhav Gadgil the Lifetime Achievement Award, the United Nations' highest environmental honor.
- ❖ The **International Ramayana Conclave** will be organized on **24 December** at Punaura Dham, the place of Janaki Prakat. People from Sri Lanka, Nepal and six states of the country will participate in it.
 - Punaura Dham Janaki Janma-bhoomi Mandir Nyas Samiti and district administration will also participate in this event being organized under the aegis of the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department and International Ramayana and Vedic Research Institute, Ayodhya.

❖ Bihar @ 2047 Vision Conclave (Season 2) is being organized on 22 December at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi under the Let's Inspire Bihar campaign.

➤ This campaign has been launched to contribute and work towards building a developed Bihar in a developed India.



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