

Bihar Special

Establishment of Research Chairs at Aryabhata Knowledge University

Why in the news?

Aryabhata Knowledge University in Patna, Bihar will establish four research chairs next year, focusing on International Studies, Gender Studies, Jayaprakash Narayan Studies, Gandhian Studies and Ambedkar Studies.

- ❖ **Partnerships and Initiatives:** Three MoUs were signed for the establishment of an incubation centre. Collaborations include partnerships with UNICEF, CyberPeace, and Monash University, Australia, to enhance research and academic activities.

Regional Forensic Science Laboratories to Open

Why in the news?

The Bihar government is expanding its forensic capabilities by establishing new regional forensic science laboratories (FSLs) in Rajgir and Purnia.

Legal Context

- ❖ The forensic labs will be crucial for police investigations, especially after the new criminal laws came into effect on 1 July 2024.
- ❖ The three new criminal laws, the “Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita,” the “Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita,” and the “Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam,” have replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and the Indian Evidence Act respectively, effective from 1 July 2024.
- ❖ FSL (Forensic Science Laboratory) reports are now mandatory for crimes punishable by over seven years in prison.

Current Facilities and Future Plans

- ❖ Existing forensic labs are located in Patna, Muzaffarpur, and Bhagalpur.
- ❖ Mobile forensic labs are available in districts like Gaya and Purnia.
- ❖ The goal is to start forensic lab services in all districts.

Extension of State Law Commission's Term

Why in the news?

The Bihar Government has extended the term of the State Law Commission by three years.

- ❖ Vinod Kumar Sinha, a retired judge from Patna High Court, has been appointed as the Chairman for the next three years.
- ❖ The previous term of the State Law Commission ended on September 7, 2021, and it had not been reconstituted since then.

International Relations

Sri Lanka announces visa-free access

Why in the news?

- ❖ Sri Lanka has decided to grant free visa access to 35 countries, including India, effective from October 1, 2024.
- ❖ **Participating Countries:** The list features India along with 34 other countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Israel, New Zealand, Nepal, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, and Australia.



Historic Visit to Poland by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Why in the news?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Poland marked the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in 45 years, aiming to enhance India-Poland relations across various sectors.

Recognition of Diaspora's Contribution:

- ❖ Modi encouraged the diaspora to promote Indian tourism and announced the Jamsaheb Memorial Youth Exchange Program, inviting 20 Polish youth to India annually.
- ❖ He acknowledged the role of the Indian diaspora in contribution to the success of **Operation Ganga**, which evacuated Indian citizens from Ukraine.

Meeting with Poland's Prime Minister

- ❖ **Strategic Partnership:** Modi met with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk in Warsaw, where their discussions covered trade, investment, science, technology, defence, security, cultural cooperation, and people-to-people ties.
- ❖ **Opportunities for Collaboration:** The leaders identified opportunities for collaboration in sectors like food processing, urban infrastructure, water management, electric vehicles, green hydrogen, renewable energy, AI, and mining.

India's Role in the Russia-Ukraine Conflict

- ❖ **India's Potential Role:** Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk expressed his belief that India could play a key role in resolving the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- ❖ **Symbolic Gesture:** Prime Minister Modi paid tribute at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw, honouring Polish soldiers who died serving their country.

Meeting with Poland's President

- ❖ **Discussions at Belweder Palace:** Modi met with President Andrzej Duda, where they discussed upgrading bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership and addressed regional and global issues, including the conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia.

Engagements with Scholars and Business Leaders

- ❖ **Cultural and Academic Ties:** Modi met with Polish scholars and Indologists, appreciating their contributions to cultural ties between India and Poland.
- ❖ **Business Discussions:** He engaged with Polish business leaders, exploring investment opportunities in India and potential collaboration in sectors like IT, hygiene products, and emerging technologies.

Promoting Kabaddi in Poland

- ❖ **Support for Kabaddi:** Modi met with members of the Kabaddi Federation of Poland, commending their efforts to popularise the sport in Europe and highlighting sports as a means of fostering cultural exchange.

Conclusion of the Visit

- ❖ **Part of a Two-Nation Tour:** The visit to Poland is part of Prime Minister Modi's two-nation tour, with Ukraine as his next destination.



Economy

India-Africa Trade Expansion

Why in the news?

India has set an ambitious goal to double its trade with Africa, aiming to reach around \$200 billion by 2030.

- ❖ **Current Trade Status:** In the fiscal year 2022-23, trade between India and Africa reached a historic high of \$100 billion.

Key Sectors for Collaboration

- ❖ **Identified Sectors:** The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has highlighted key sectors for potential collaboration: automobiles, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and logistics.

- ❖ **Areas of Focus:** Efforts will be directed towards increasing trade, boosting investment, advancing technology, and building capacity in these sectors.

Defence And Security

NDMA's Focus on High-Risk Glacial Lakes

Why in the news?

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has identified 189 glacial lakes in the Himalayas as "high-risk" and is planning mitigation measures to prevent disasters.

Proposed Mitigation Steps

- ❖ **Lake-Lowering Measures:** Teams will investigate these lakes and potentially implement lake-lowering techniques to reduce the risk of overflows, protecting downstream areas from potential damage.

National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme

- ❖ **Programme Approval:** The Centre approved the National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme on July 25, 2024, aimed at reducing the risk of such disasters.

Previous Expeditions

- ❖ **15 Expeditions Conducted:** So far, 15 expeditions have been conducted to assess glacial lakes, including six in Sikkim, six in Ladakh, one in Himachal Pradesh, and two in Jammu and Kashmir.

Monitoring Challenges and Expeditions

- ❖ **Remote Sensing and Site Visits:** Monitoring is done via remote sensing, but site visits are challenging due to difficult terrain. Expeditions are limited to July-September.

Miscellaneous

Lakhpati Didis

Why in the news?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to distribute certificates to 11 lakh newly recognized Lakhpati Didis in Jalgaon, Maharashtra, on August 25, 2024.

About Lakhpati Didis

- ❖ Lakhpati Didis are members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in India who have an annual household income of more than Rupees One Lakh (Rs. 1,00,000).

- ❖ These Lakhpati Didis have not only pulled their families out of poverty but are also becoming role models for the rest of the society.

New 'Right to Disconnect' Law in Australia

Why in the news?

Australian employees will now have the right to ignore work-related communications outside of their working hours.

- ❖ **Law Details:** Passed in February 2024, the law protects employees from being required to monitor or respond to employer contact beyond work hours.
- ❖ **Global Comparisons:** Similar laws are in place in France, Germany, and other EU countries, allowing employees to disconnect from work outside their scheduled hours.

Awards and Honors

First-Ever Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

Why in the news?

President Droupadi Murmu presented the first-ever Vigyan Ratna Puraskar to biochemist and former IISc director Govindrajan Padmanabhan at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- ❖ She also awarded 13 Vigyan Shri Puraskars, 18 Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes, and one Vigyan Team award during the inaugural investiture ceremony for these science awards.



- ❖ **Pulkit (65 kg):** Pulkit won gold by winning against Daria Frolova.
- ❖ **Mansi Lather (73 kg):** Mansi earned gold by winning against Hanna Pirskaya.



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Sports

Under-17 World Championship

Why in the news?

Indian women wrestlers delivered a remarkable performance at the Under-17 World Championship, securing multiple gold medals and showcasing their prowess in various weight categories.

Gold Medal Winners

- ❖ **Aditi Kumari (43 kg):** Aditi won the gold medal by beating Maria Louiza Gikika from Greece.
- ❖ **Neha (57 kg):** Neha took the gold medal after easily defeating So Sutsui from Japan.

Important Days/ Dates

National Space Day

Why in the news?

- ❖ **Inaugural Celebration:** India will celebrate its first National Space Day on August 23, 2024.
- ❖ **Commemoration:** The day marks the first anniversary of the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission, a landmark achievement in India's space exploration history.
- ❖ **Theme:** The theme for the first National Space Day is "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga," highlighting the impact of space exploration on everyday life.

Chandrayaan-3: A Landmark Achievement

- ❖ **Mission Success:** On August 23, 2023, India made history with the successful landing of the Chandrayaan-3 mission on the moon.
- ❖ **Global Milestone:** The Vikram Lander, accompanied by the Pragyaan Rover, landed near the lunar south pole, making India the fourth nation to achieve a soft landing on the moon and the first to do so in this region.



News in Short

- ❖ A 2,492-carat diamond, the second-largest ever found in the world, has been discovered in Botswana. The largest diamond ever found is the Cullinan Diamond, which was discovered in South Africa in 1905 and weighed around 3,106 carats.
- ❖ State-owned GAIL (India) Ltd signed an agreement with US biofuel producer Petron Scientech Inc to explore the joint setup of a 500 kilo tonnes per annum bio-ethylene plant in India through a 50:50 joint venture.
- ❖ In July, India surpassed China to become the world's largest importer of Russian oil, with imports reaching a record 2.07 million barrels per day (bpd).
- ❖ The historic Lord's cricket ground, known as the 'Home of Cricket,' will host its first women's Test match in 2026, with England's team facing India.



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