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Content

National Current Affairs

Bihar's Nitin Nabin Appointed BJP National Working President

Why in News?

Bihar minister **Nitin Nabin** has been appointed as the **National Working President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).**

Key Points

- In a significant political development on **December 14, 2025**, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) appointed Bihar Cabinet Minister **Nitin Nabin** as its **National Working President**.

About Nitin Nabin

- **Born:** May 23, 1980, in Ranchi (then Bihar, now Jharkhand).
- **Constituency:** He is a **five-time consecutive MLA** from the **Bankipur** Assembly constituency in Patna, holding the seat since 2006.
- **Political Lineage:** He entered politics after the demise of his father, **Nabin Kishore Prasad Sinha**, a veteran BJP leader and former MLA.

Portfolios Held in Bihar Government

- During his tenure in the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government, he has held critical portfolios:
  - **Road Construction Department (RCD):** (2021–2022, 2025)
  - **Urban Development & Housing Department (UDHD):** (2024–2025)
  - **Department of Law:** (Additional Charge, 2024–2025)

Key Initiatives & Administrative Reforms

- His tenure is noted for integrating technology into governance and pushing for structural reforms in Bihar's infrastructure sectors.
  - **Urban Development Initiatives**
    - **Satellite Township Scheme:** Launched a plan to develop **11 new cities** to decongest major urban centers. This includes upgrading 9 divisional headquarters (like Patna, Gaya, Muzaffarpur) and developing towns like Sonepur and Sitamarhi.

- **Land Pooling Policy (2025):** Instrumental in implementing the **Bihar Town Planning Scheme Rules 2025**. This policy allows landowners to become partners in development projects rather than losing land to forceful acquisition, solving a major hurdle in urban expansion.
- **GIS Mapping:** Mandated **GIS-based mapping** of Patna's drainage, sewerage, and water supply networks to ensure scientific management of civic amenities.

- **Road Construction Reforms**
  - **"Path Sandharan" App:** Introduced a mobile application for real-time monitoring of road conditions. It allows officials and the public to report potholes, ensuring accountability from contractors.
  - **OPRMC Policy:** Implemented **Output and Performance-Based Road Maintenance Contracts**. Under this, contractors are responsible for maintaining the roads they build for **7 years**, shifting the focus from mere construction to long-term quality. **Bridge Health Monitoring:** In response to bridge collapses, he established a dedicated **Bridge Maintenance Wing** and ordered regular health audits of all major bridges in the state.

IGIMS Doctor Elected Asia Pacific Governor of International College of Surgeons

Why in News?

Dr. Manish Mandal, a senior surgeon from **IGIMS, Patna**, has been elected as the **Governor of the Asia Pacific Region** for the **International College of Surgeons (ICS)** at its global biennial congress in Singapore.

Key Points

- **Event & Venue:** The election took place during the **44th Biennial Congress of ICS** held in **Singapore** on **December 5, 2025**.

- **Election Nature:** Selected through a **democratic voting process** among **ICS member representatives.**
- **Voting Details:** Out of **five candidates** and **71 voters**, Dr. Mandal won the post with **51 votes**, securing a clear majority.
- **Tenure:** He will serve as Asia Pacific Governor of ICS for **two years**.
- **Significance for IGIMS:** Officials at IGIMS called this a **historic achievement** that will help to expand **international academic collaborations** and **global recognition**.
- **Role Confirmed:** Dr. Mandal's new position involves fostering cooperation with **international universities** and strengthening IGIMS's **global academic presence**.
- **International College of Surgeons (ICS):** It is a **global professional medical organisation** that brings together surgeons from different countries to **promote advancement of surgical education, research, training, and international cooperation.**

Mobile Forensic Vehicles to Fast-Track Crime Investigation

Why in News?

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar flagged off **mobile forensic vehicles** to speed up criminal investigations across the state.

Key Points

- **Event:** Bihar CM Nitish Kumar inaugurated **34 mobile forensic vehicles** aimed at faster crime probing by enabling on-site evidence collection.
- **Purpose:** These vehicles are designed to **begin investigation immediately at crime scenes**, reducing delays in sending samples to distant labs.
- **Equipment:** The vans are equipped with **modern forensic tools** for efficient scientific examination and evidence handling.
- **Law & Order:** The initiative aligns with Bihar government's **zero-tolerance policy on crime and corruption** and strengthens policing capacity.

- **Benefit:** Rapid on-spot forensic analysis is expected to **speed up investigations, improve evidence quality and aid quicker justice delivery**.
- **Deployment:** Vehicles will be used across districts to support police during the early stages of criminal probes.

Bheja–Bakaur Kosi Bridge Project

Why in News?

The **13.3 km Bheja–Bakaur Kosi Bridge** in **North Bihar** is in its final stage and is expected to transform connectivity, reduce travel distances, and boost regional development in flood-affected areas.

Key Points

- **Project Location:** The **Bheja–Bakaur Kosi Bridge**, constructed across the **Kosi River** in **Bihar**.
- **Kosi River:** It is known as the **"Sorrow of Bihar",originating** from the **Tibetan Plateau**, flowing through **Nepal**, and **merges with the Ganga near Kursela in Katihar district of Bihar.**
- **Strategic Connectivity:** The bridge will **reduce travel distance by 44 km**, providing direct connectivity between **Madhubani and Supaul with NH-27 and Patna.**
- **Regional Commerce:** It is expected to open seamless routes to **Nepal and Northeast India**, boosting **cross-border trade and regional commerce**.
- **Scheme:** Developed under **Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I** by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.
- **Investment:** The project has an estimated cost of **₹1101.99 crore**.
- **Completion Timeline:** The project is targeted for completion during **FY 2026–27**.
- **Religious & Tourism Access:** Easier connectivity to sites like **Bhagwati Uchchaith**, **Bideshwar Dham**, **Ugratara Temple**, and **Singheshwar Sthan**.
- **Transformative Symbol:** The bridge represents a major shift from years of **flood struggle and isolation** to enhanced connectivity and regional development in **North Bihar**.

Bihar @ 2047 Vision Conclave

Why in News?

The state government is organising the **"Bihar @2047 Vision Conclave"** in **Bengaluru** to foster an **investor-friendly ecosystem**, attract investments, and promote long-term economic growth.

Key Points

- **Statement & Platform:** Industries Minister **Dilip Kumar Jaiswal** highlighted Bihar's investment push at the **"Bihar @ 2047 Vision Conclave"** held in **Bengaluru**.
- **Policy Objective:** The state aims to ensure **ease of doing business** along with **security of business** to boost investor confidence.
- **Industrial Security:** Proposal to set up a **Bihar Industrial Security Force (BISF)** on the lines of **CISF** for protecting industrial units and investors.
- **Institutional Reforms:** Emphasis on **policy reforms, institutional support, and administrative responsiveness** to create a conducive investment climate.
- **Investor Outreach:** Plan to organise the **Bihar Development Summit 2026** in **Hyderabad and New Delhi** to attract domestic and global investors.
- **Long-term Goal:** Promote **industrial growth, entrepreneurship and job creation** to support Bihar's **Vision 2047** and reduce migration.

State-Level Youth Festival in Madhubani

Why in News?

A **two-day state-level youth festival** has commenced in **Madhubani district of Bihar** to promote cultural and creative talents among youth.

Key Points

- **Organising Department:** Organised by the **Bihar Department of Art, Culture and Youth** with support of the **Madhubani district administration**.

- **Venues:** Events are organised at **multiple locations in Madhubani**.
- **Objective:** To **identify, encourage and showcase youth talent** and promote **Bihar's folk culture and heritage**.
- **Participants:** Youth from **various districts of Bihar** are participating in the festival.
- **Cultural Events:** Competitions include **group folk dance, folk singing, painting, poetry writing, story writing and elocution**.
- **Significance:** Enhances **youth engagement, cultural preservation** and **grass-roots talent development** in Bihar.

Anukul Roy Honoured for Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

Why in News?

The **Bihar Chief Secretary** honoured **Anukul Roy**, recognising his exceptional performance in the **2025–26 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.**

Key Points

- **Recognition:** Bihar Chief Secretary **honoured** Anukul Roy at Vidyut Bhawan, Patna for his outstanding performance in the **2025–26 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.**
- **Tournament Achievement:** He was named **Player of the Tournament**.
- **Institutional Support:** He is serving with **Bihar State Power Holding Company Ltd (BSPHCL)**, bringing recognition to both his organisation and the state.
- **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025–26:** India's **domestic T20 cricket tournament**.
  - **Winner:** Jharkhand
  - **Runner up:** Haryana
  - **Bihar position:** reached quarter-finals.
  - **Player of the Tournament**: Anukul Roy

Bamboo Huts Promote Sustainable Tourism at Valmiki Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

Eco-friendly **bamboo huts** established at the **Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR)** in Bihar have emerged as a model of **sustainable tourism**.

Key Points

- **Location:** Valmiki Tiger Reserve is located in **West Champaran district, Bihar**, near the **India–Nepal border**.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Bamboo huts reduce ecological damage, blend with natural surroundings, and support **green construction practices**.
- **Economic Significance:** Promotes **local employment**, boosts rural income, and encourages **community participation** in tourism.
- **Government Vision:** Aligns with Bihar government's focus on **eco-tourism development** and sustainable use of forest resources.
- **Valmiki Tiger Reserve:** VTR is **Bihar's only tiger reserve** and part of the **Valmiki Nagar forest landscape**.
  - **Established:** Notified as a Tiger Reserve in 1994 under **Project Tiger**
  - **Landscape:** Part of the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL)
  - **Rivers:** Gandak River and its tributaries drain the reserve
  - **International Boundary:** Shares boundary with Chitwan National Park (Nepal)

Boat Ride Facility Opened at Kharagpur Lake

Why in News?

The **Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary** inaugurated a **boat ride facility** at **Kharagpur Lake** in **Munger district of Bihar.**

Key Points

- **Tourism Development:** The initiative aims to establish the lake as a **key tourist destination** in the region.
- **Economic and Employment Impact:** The facility is expected to **boost local employment** and support the **regional economy.**
- **Natural Attraction:** Kharagpur Lake is known for its natural resources, hot springs, dense forest and **rich biodiversity**, making it a potential **eco-tourism and recreational site.**
  - Lakes also play a key role in **local ecology, groundwater recharge, and recreation.**
- **Hotspring in Munger:** Bhimbandh, Rishikund, Laxman Kund, Rameshwar Kund, Sita Kund, Bharari Kund, Panchtar Kund etc.

Supercomputer 'PARAM Rudra' Launched at IIT Patna

Why in News?

Bihar's **first supercomputer**, **PARAM Rudra**, was inaugurated at the **Indian Institute of Technology Patna (IIT Patna)**.

Key Points

- **Mission:** PARAM Rudra was launched under the **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).**
- **Objective:** It aims to expand **high-performance computing (HPC) infrastructure** and support advanced research.
- **Applications & Fields:** It will enable complex computing in fields such as **computational astrobiology, material design, molecular electronics, fluid mechanics, AI, data science** and **quantum computing.**
- **Indigenous System:** PARAM Rudra uses **indigenously developed servers and software**, promoting **self-reliance in high-performance computing technology.**

National Current Affairs

India to Host 2ⁿᵈ WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine

Why in News?

India will host the **Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine in New Delhi** from 17–19 December 2025, building on the inaugural summit held in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat, in 2023**.

Key Points

- **Organiser:** Jointly organised by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **Ministry of Ayush** to advance global dialogue on health and well-being through traditional medicine.

- **Theme:** The summit will be held under the theme **"Restoring balance:** The science and practice of health and well-being," focusing on equitable, sustainable health systems.

- **Global Focus:** Policymakers and leaders from over 100 countries will participate **to shape the future role of traditional medicine.**

- **Vision:** The event aims to reaffirm the relevance of traditional medicine while promoting its integration into **national health systems** based on science, evidence and responsible practice.

- **WHO Strategy:** Discussions will align with the **WHO Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034** to advance people-centred healthcare and planetary well-being.

- **Plenary Sessions:** Key deliberations will cover restoring **balance in health systems, scientific investment, governance, biodiversity stewardship, and Indigenous rights.**

- **Innovation & Evidence:** The summit will emphasize innovative approaches to elevate traditional medicine responsibly **through ethical use of digital technologies,** including AI.

- **Diverse Issues:** Over 25 sessions will address regulation, integration, protection of biodiversity, and intellectual property rights.

WHO
- **Founded:** 7 April 1948, headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **Type:** Specialized agency of the **United Nations** for global public health.
- **Membership: 194 member states** (as of 2025).
- **Objective:** Promote **health**, achieve **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**, and respond to **global health emergencies**.
- **Current Director-General:** Dr **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesu**s (since 2017).

Nuclear Energy Transformation Bill, 2025

Why in News?

Dr **Jitendra Singh**, Minister of State for **Science and Technology**, introduced the **Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Bill, 2025,** in Parliament to modernise India's nuclear energy legal framework.

Key Points

- **New Legal Framework:** The Bill proposes a comprehensive law for nuclear energy by repealing the **Atomic Energy Act, 1962** and the **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010**.

- **Energy Security:** It aims to expand nuclear installed capacity to ensure **reliable, clean and round-the-clock power** for future needs such as **data centres**.

- **Decarbonisation Goal:** The Bill aligns with India's long-term climate commitments, including a target of **100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047** and **net-zero emissions by 2070**.

- **Private Participation:** It encourages greater involvement of the **domestic industry and the private sector** in **nuclear power development**.

- **Regulatory Mechanism:** The Bill introduces updated provisions for **licensing, safety authorisation, suspension and cancellation** to strengthen regulatory oversight.

- **Civil Liability:** A revised civil liability framework for nuclear damage is proposed to enhance **safety, accountability and compensation mechanisms**.
- **Institutional Setup:** The Bill provides for bodies such as the **Atomic Energy Redressal Advisory Council**, Claims Commissioners and a **Nuclear Damage Claims Commission**.
- **Technology Coverage:** Nuclear energy and radiation-based technologies are brought under a **modernised regulatory structure**.
- **National Transition:** The Bill reflects India's intent to modernise nuclear governance while balancing **clean energy expansion, safety and public interest**.

Nuclear Energy
- **First Plant:** Tarapur, Maharashtra (1969)
- **Largest Site:** Rajasthan – maximum nuclear power generation.
- **Other Key Sites:** Kakrapar (Gujarat), Kudankulam & Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu), Narora (U.P.).
- **Reactor Types:** PHWR (majority), BWR (Tarapur), Fast Breeder Reactor (Kalpakkam).
- **Fuel:** Uranium & Thorium (India has largest Thorium reserves).

Defence Estates Day Celebrations of 100th Year

Why in News?

Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh** will preside over the **Defence Estates Day celebrations** at Raksha Sampada Bhawan, Delhi Cantonment, on **16 December 2025**, marking the **100th year** of the Defence Estates Department.

Key Points

- **Celebrations & Awards:** Raksha Mantri will confer the **Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence in public service** for **Defence Land Management and Municipal Administration** across **61 Cantonment Boards**.
- **Centenary Significance:** The event marks the **100th anniversary** of the **Defence Estates Department**, with origins tracing back to Barrackpore in 1765 and formalisation on **16 December 1926**.

- **Defence Estates Role:** The Department manages the largest landholding of the Government of India under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- **Digital Transformation:** Modernised land management with projects like **E-Chhawani**, providing 100% municipal services online to ~20 lakh cantonment residents.
- **Awards Recognition:** Won the **National Water Awards for Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari** for efforts in water conservation and rejuvenation of water bodies.
- **Digitisation:** Complete **digitisation of legacy land records,** ensuring preservation, easy retrieval, and secure archival.
- **Raksha Bhoomi Platform:** A centralised software 'Raksha Bhoomi' serves as a unified repository of all **defence land records** on secure servers.
- **Advanced Survey Tools:** Uses Differential GPS, GIS tools and high-resolution satellite imagery to improve **land accuracy** and management.
- **Tech Innovation:** Centre of Excellence on Satellite and Unmanned Remote Vehicle Initiative leverages **AI/ML** and emerging technologies for next-generation **defence land management solutions**.

India, ADB Sign $2.2 Billion Development Loans

Why in News?

The Government of India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed agreements for **five loans totalling over $2.2 billion** to support various key development projects across multiple sectors.

Key Points

- **Regional Impact:** Projects span **three states (Assam, Meghalaya and Tamilnadu)**, boosting development across sectors and regions.
- **Loan Value:** Agreements worth **over $2.2 billion** signed between India and **ADB**.
- **Projects Covered:** Includes programmes for **skilling, rooftop solar deployment, healthcare, metro rail, and ecotourism**.

- 💡 **Skilling Initiative:** Supports **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs Programme**.
- 💡 **Solar Programme:** Funds **Accelerating Affordable and Inclusive Rooftop Solar Systems Development** under **Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY).**
- 💡 **Healthcare Project:** Includes **Assam State Tertiary Health Care Augmentation Project (ASTHA)**.
- 💡 **Urban Transport:** Supports **Chennai Metro Rail Investment Project (Tranche 2)**.
- 💡 **Ecotourism & Livelihoods:** Financing for **Integrated Ecotourism and Sustainable Agri-based Livelihood Development in Meghalaya**.
- 💡 **Flagship Programmes:** Loans will further India's **national flagship programmes** in renewable energy, healthcare, urban infrastructure and skill development.

ADB
💡 **Established:** 1966, headquarters at Manila, Philippines.
💡 **Type:** Multilateral development bank for Asia-Pacific region.
💡 **Members:** 68 members (49 regional, 19 non-regional).
💡 **Objective:** Promote economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development.
💡 **India–ADB**: India is a founding member and one of the largest borrowers from ADB.

National Geospatial Workshop on Geospatial Mission

Why in News?

The **Survey of India** (under **Department of Science & Technology**) will host a **National Workshop on Strengthening of Geospatial Ecosystem** titled **"Geospatial Mission: An Enabler of Viksit Bharat."**

Key Points

- 💡 **Inauguration & Venue:** The workshop will be **inaugurated by Dr Jitendra Singh** on **17 December 2025** at **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.**

- 💡 **Objective:** To **strengthen India's geospatial ecosystem** and advance the **National Geospatial Mission**.
- 💡 **Participants:** Will bring together **policymakers, technologists, industry leaders and domain experts**.
- 💡 **Announced:** The **National Geospatial Mission (announced in the Union Budget 2025–26)** aims to **modernise geodetic frameworks, enhance geospatial infrastructure, standardise data, and adopt emerging technologies**.
- 💡 **Significance:** A key step in realising the **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision through enhanced geospatial capabilities.

25,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras by March 2027

Why in News?

The Government has set a new target to increase the number of **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (JAKs)** in India to **25,000 by March 2027.**

Key Points

- 💡 **Current Status:** As of **30 November 2025**, a total of **17,610 Janaushadhi Kendras (JAKs)** have been opened nationwide, compared to only **80 in 2014**, showing significant expansion of the scheme.
- 💡 **Target Set:** The Government has set a target of increasing JAKs to **25,000 by March 2027** to further improve access to low-cost quality generic medicines.
- 💡 **About Jan Aushadhi Kendra:** It is a **government-supported retail outlet** scheme that sells **quality generic medicines at affordable prices** to the public.
- 💡 **Growing Awareness:** Rising **sales volumes** and an expanding **product basket** under the scheme indicate increasing public confidence and awareness about Janaushadhi medicines.
- 💡 **Entrepreneur Participation:** Enhanced viability and attractiveness of JAKs have led to a **37% increase in outlets** and a **38% increase in MRP sales value** in the last financial year.

- **Application Process:** JAKs are opened by inviting online applications from **individual entrepreneurs, NGOs, societies, trusts, firms, and companies** through the official Janaushadhi website.

Sahakar Sarathi

Why in News?

The **Government of India** has established **Sahakar Sarathi**, a **Shared Service Entity (SSE)**, to modernise and digitally empower **Rural Cooperative Banks** **(RCBs)**.

Key Points

- **Establishment of Sahakar Sarathi:** Sahakar Sarathi (SSE) has been set up with the approval of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to strengthen the technological and service capabilities of **Rural Cooperative Banks**.
- **Date of Registration:** The entity was **registered on 21 July 2025** with the aim of providing shared infrastructure for cooperative banking digitalisation.
- **Authorised Capital & Shareholding:** Sahakar Sarathi has an **authorised capital of ₹1,000 crore**, with equal **33.33% shareholding** each for **NABARD, NCDC, and Rural Cooperative Banks**.
- **Services Provided:** It offers **shared modern banking infrastructure** and digital services including: **Common Core Banking Solutions (CBS), Digital payments** like AePS and UPI, **Cybersecurity, IT governance etc.**
- **Purpose & Impact:** The initiative seeks to help RCBs provide **modern, standardised, and digital banking services**, enhance customer reach, and improve **operational efficiency** comparable to other regulated financial institutions.

NAMASTE Scheme: Nationwide Survey of Sewer and Septic Tank Workers

Why in News?

A **nationwide survey** covering over **4,800 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** was conducted under the **National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme** to identify **Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs)** and strengthen their **safety and dignity** in sanitation work.

Key Points

- **Survey Objective:** The survey was conducted to identify **Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs)** under the NAMASTE scheme — **not manual scavengers** — to ensure improved working conditions and safety.
- **Fatality Data:** According to the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)**, **471 sanitation workers** have lost their lives due to hazardous sewer and septic tank cleaning between **2019 and October 2025**.
- **Legal Prohibition: Section 7** of the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013** prohibits hazardous entry into sewer or septic tanks.
- **NAMASTE Scheme:** Launched in **2023–24** by the **Department of Social Justice & Empowerment** in convergence with the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs**
- **Scheme Objectives:** The scheme aims to **eliminate manual entry** into sewer and septic tanks and promote **mechanised cleaning** to achieve **zero fatality** and protect workers health.
- **Scheme Components:** Support includes **safety devices** for Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs), **capital subsidies** for mechanised equipment, **occupational safety training**, and **workshops** on prevention of hazardous cleaning.
- **SBM-U 2.0 Linkage:** Under **Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U) 2.0**, the **Used Water Management (UWM)** component focuses on eradicating hazardous sewer/septic tank entry through mechanisation.

White Spot diseases in Andhra Pradesh

Why in News?

The **Government of India** informed about **White Spot Disease outbreaks in aquaculture in Andhra Pradesh**

and the **measures taken under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** to monitor and control aquatic animal diseases.

Key Points

- **White Spot Disease:** In Andhra Pradesh, field teams collected aquaculture samples; **4 samples tested positive under passive surveillance** and **23 under active surveillance** for **White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV).**

- **Disease Surveillance:** The **National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD)** is being implemented under **PMMSY** with a **₹33.78 crore outlay** to detect and manage aquatic diseases nationwide.

- **Sample Analysis:** Samples are analysed at the **State Institute of Fisheries Technology (SIFT), Kakinada.**

- **Insurance Support:** Under the **Aquaculture Crop Insurance Scheme**, **85 aquafarmers** in Andhra Pradesh are covered; in 2025, **₹5.21 lakh in claims** were disbursed.

- **Prevention Guidelines:** The **Coastal Aquaculture Authority** has issued guidelines for **SPF shrimp or broodstock centres, hatcheries, farms, health monitoring and SPF certification** to prevent WSSV outbreaks.

- **Biosecurity Measures:** Mandatory **quarantine of imported shrimp broodstock** and registration of shrimp hatcheries and farms with the **Coastal Aquaculture Authority** are enforced to limit disease spread.

- **Laboratory Surveillance:** **PCR-based disease surveillance** of shrimp and water samples supports early detection and disease control.

- **Alternative Farming:** The Government promotes **Biofloc Technology (BFT)** and **Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS)** to reduce disease risk and improve biosecurity and sustainability.

North East Investors Summit, 2025

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)** highlighted the aims and key focus area of the **Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025.**

Key Points

- **Event: Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025**, organised by **MDoNER** to attract investments to the **North Eastern Region**.

- **Focus Sectors:** Tourism & Hospitality, Agro-Food Processing & allied sectors, Textiles, Handloom & Handicrafts, Healthcare, Education & Skill Development, IT/ITeS, Entertainment & Sports, Infrastructure & Logistics, and Energy.

- **Investment Interest:** The summit and its roadshows collectively garnered **investment interests of ₹4.48 lakh crore** through **MoUs, letters of intent, and investor leads** from private and public sector entities.

- **Renewable Energy Projects:** Renewable energy schemes in the region, including **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**, **PM KUSUM**, **Solar Park projects, off-grid electrification (PM JANMAN), Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)** houses, and bio-gas plant installations across the North East.

Prestigious National Awards 2025

Why in News?

The **National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)** under the **Ministry of Culture** has been conferred with **two prestigious National Awards 2025** by the **Public Relations Society of India (PRSI)** for excellence in communication and public engagement.

Key Points

- **Awards Received:** NCSM won **two PRSI National Awards 2025** — one for the **"Har Ghar Museum" initiative** in the **Best Use of Social Media in a Corporate Campaign** category and another for the **"Waste to Art" publication** in the **Special/Prestige Publication** category.

- **Har Ghar Museum Campaign:** A nationwide campaign inviting people to share photos, videos, and stories of personal collections to create a **digital archive of everyday heritage** and boost public engagement.

- **Waste to Art Publication:** Demonstrate the transformation of **1,250 kg of waste** into art installations at NCSM, promoting **circular economy** and public engagement in **sustainable creativity**.

- **Public Engagement:** The Har Ghar Museum campaign has achieved **over 10 million views on social media**, **over 1 million individual engagements**, and **150+ curated entries**, reflecting strong nationwide participation.

- **Award Ceremony:** The awards were presented at the **47th All India Public Relations Conference** held in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand** from **December 13 to 15, 2025**.

OTT Sector as India's Soft Power

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** highlighted the growing role of the **OTT (Over-The-Top) sector** as a key driver of **India's soft power and global cultural outreach**.

Key Points

- **OTT Platform :** OTT (Over-The-Top) refers to **digital platforms that deliver video, audio, or media content directly to users via the internet,** without relying on traditional cable or satellite television networks (e.g., Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Disney+ Hotstar).

- **Soft Power Role:** The **OTT sector** promotes **Indian stories, culture, creativity, and heritage** to audiences **within India and across the world**.

- **Revenue Growth: Video subscription revenues** in India grew by **11% in 2024**, reaching **₹9,200 crore**.

- **User Base:** Estimated **9.5–11.8 crore** individuals in India pay for OTT streaming services.

- **WAVES OTT Platform:** Prasar Bharati's WAVES OTT platform recorded **over 80 lakh downloads** in its first year and provides **free access to Doordarshan and All India Radio archives**, regional arts, documentaries and multilingual content.

- **Support for Creators:** WAVES OTT has created a framework to support **emerging filmmakers and content creators** with global distribution opportunities.

- **Anti-Piracy Measure:** The newly added **Section 7(1B)(ii)** of the **Cinematograph Act, 1952** empowers the government to take action against intermediaries hosting **pirated films** online.

Anti-Terror Conference to Be Inaugurated in New Delhi

Why in News?

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah will inaugurate the **Anti-Terror Conference** in **New Delhi** on **26 December 2025**.

Key Points

- **Inaugurated By:** Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah will preside over the inauguration.
  - **Aim:** The conference is aimed at strengthening **India's counter-terrorism preparedness and coordination.**

- **Organiser:** The conference is organised by the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

- **Vision:** Shaped under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of zero tolerance for terrorism**.

- **Focus Areas:** This include foreign **evidence collection, digital forensics, data analysis in counter-terrorism investigations and disrupting terror-financing networks.**
  - **Counter-Radicalisation:** Preventing radicalisation and recruitment, especially through digital platforms.

India to Chair the Kimberley Process from 2026

Why in News?

India has been selected to assume the **Chairpersonship of the Kimberley Process (KP)** from **1 January 2026**.

Key Points

- **Kimberley Process (KP):** An international **multilateral initiative** aimed at **preventing the trade in conflict diamonds.**

✦ **Conflict Diamonds:** These are **rough diamonds** used by rebel groups to finance armed conflicts against legitimate governments.

💡 **Tripartite Structure:** The KP is a **joint initiative of governments, the international diamond industry, and civil society organisations**.

💡 **Headquarters:** Not a formal organisation; **operates through member states** and rotating chairs

💡 **Certification Scheme:** The **Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)** came into effect on **1 January 2003** under a **UN Security Council mandate**.

💡 **Global Coverage:** The KP has **60 participants**, including the **European Union and its Member States**.

💡 **India's Role:** This will be the **third time (2008, 2019, and 2026)** India has been entrusted with this leadership responsibility.

Veer Bal Diwas

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** announced that **Veer Bal Diwas** will be observed nationally on **26 December** to honour the **bravery and values of young heroes**.

Key Points

💡 **Veer Bal Diwas:** This day honours the **supreme sacrifice of the Sahibzadas** — the sons of **Guru Gobind Singh Ji**, who attained martyrdom in **1705** resisting forced conversion.

💡 **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar:** The **President of India, Droupadi Murmu**, will present this award to children for **exceptional achievements in bravery, arts, science, social service, environment, and sports**.

💡 **Awardees:** This year, **20 children** from 18 States and Union Territories have been selected for the award.

💡 **Ceremony Details:** The award ceremony is held at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.

New BIS Standard for Incense Sticks

Why in News?

The **Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Pralhad Joshi**, released a **new BIS standard for incense sticks,** to enhance **consumer safety and product quality**, on **National Consumer Day 2025** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.

Key Points

💡 **Standard Title: IS 19412:2025 – Incense Sticks (Agarbatti)** is an **Indian Standard** developed by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).**

💡 **BIS:** It is **India's national standards body**, established under the **Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016**, responsible for setting and certifying **quality and safety standards**.

💡 **Consumer Confidence:** Products complying with **IS 19412:2025** are eligible to carry the **BIS Standard Mark**, enabling consumers to identify **safe, tested, and quality-assured** incense sticks.

💡 **Prohibited Substances:** The standard restricts the use of **insecticidal chemicals** such as **alethrin, permethrin, cypermethrin, deltamethrin, and fipronil**.

💡 **Product Coverage:** It applies to **machine-made, hand-made, and traditional masala agarbattis**, prescribing norms for **raw materials, burning quality, fragrance performance, and permissible chemical limits**.

Bronze at 2025 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship

Why in News?

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** congratulated Indian chess grandmasters **Arjun Erigaisi** and **Koneru Humpy** for winning **bronze medals** at the **2025 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship**.

Key Points

- 💡 **Venue:** The Championship was held in **Doha, Qatar**.
- 💡 Medal Winners: Arjun Erigaisi and Koneru Humpy
- 💡 Arjun Erigaisi won the bronze medal in the **Men's section**.
- 💡 Koneru Humpy secured bronze in the **Women's section**

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💡 **2025 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship:** The FIDE World Rapid Championship features a **13-round Swiss system format** with rapid time controls, testing players' skill at high speed.

- ✦ Gold – Men's section: **Magnus Carlsen (Norway)**
- ✦ Gold – Women's section: **Ju Wenjun (China)**

K-4 medium-range ballistic missile

Why in News?

India successfully test-fires 3,500-km **K-4 Medium-Range Ballistic Missile** from **nuclear-powered submarines**.

Key Points

- 💡 **Launch Platform:** The launch was carried out from **INS Arighaat,** a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine **(SSBN)** of the **Indian Navy**, in the **Bay of Bengal.**
- 💡 **Strategic Significance:** Enhances India's **sea-based nuclear deterrence** and contributes to the **nuclear triad** — the ability to deploy nuclear weapons from **land, air, and sea**.
- 💡 **Second-Strike Capability:** The test strengthens India's **second-strike capability**, ensuring that even after absorbing an initial attack, India can respond decisively.
- 💡 **DRDO Role:** The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** developed the K-4 missile, which uses **solid fuel and advanced navigation systems.**

- 💡 **Ballistic missiles:** They are **rocket-propelled weapon**s that follow a **free-fall trajectory** after launch. They can carry **conventional or nuclear warheads** and be launched from **land, sea, or air.**
  - ✦ Based on range, they're classified as **short** (< 1,000 km), **medium** (1,000–3,000 km), **intermediate** (3,000–5,500 km), or **long-range or intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs)**(> 5,500 km).
  - ✦ **Agni-V** is India's longest-range missile, an ICBM with a range of over 5,000 km.

Bharat Taxi Initiative

Why in News?

The Government of India has launched **Bharat Taxi**, a **first-of-its-kind driver-owned, cooperative ride-hailing initiative**, aimed at providing a fair, transparent and equitable alternative to private taxi aggregators.

Key Points

- 💡 **Bharat Taxi:** It is a **government-backed ride-hailing platform** developed as a **cooperative model**, where **drivers are shareholders and co-owners** instead of being dependent on traditional private companies.
- 💡 **Objective:** The scheme aims to **empower taxi drivers** by ensuring fair earnings, reduce dependence on private aggregators (like Ola and Uber), and offer **affordable, transparent transport services to passengers.**
- 💡 **Cooperative Structure:** The service is operated by **Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited.**
- 💡 **Launch:** The service is set to launch across the country from **January 1, 2026**.
- 💡 **Driver Benefits:** Driver-owned model, No commission and Profit sharing.
- 💡 **Passenger Benefits:** Transparent pricing, Affordable rides and Multiple vehicle options.

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