

Daily Current Affairs

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Bihar Museum Ranks 9th Globally

- The Bihar Museum in Patna ranks ninth among all museums worldwide and first among all museums in Asia according to The World's 100 Best Museums 2026, authored by Worth a Journey, based in Germany.
- The Bihar Museum is the only Indian entry on the list of the world's top 100 museums in 2026. The museum beats the Met Museum in New York, which ranks tenth, and the Louvre Museum in Paris, which ranks 31st.
- Bihar Museum is a modern museum situated on Nehru Path in Patna and established to conserve and showcase the cultural heritage of Bihar. The museum is an architectural design of Fumihiko Maki, winner of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, along with the Mumbai-based firm of Opolis Architects.
- In addition, the newly opened Bihar Museum supplements Patna Museum, which was founded in 1917. They both feature different collections, which allow tourists to learn about the region's development from the perspective of archaeology, art and culture. There are also plans to construct an underground passage between the two museums.

Rank	Name of the Museum	Location
1	Museo Nacional de Antropología	Mexico City, Mexico
2	Museo del Prado	Madrid, Spain
3	Louisiana Museum of Modern Art	Humblebaek, Denmark

4	State Hermitage Museum	Saint Petersburg, Russia
5	Kunsthistorisches Museum	Vienna, Austria
9	Bihar Museum	Patna, India
10	Metropolitan Museum of Art	New York, USA
31	Louvre Museum	Paris, France



Earthshot Prize 2026

- The Earthshot Prize 2026 is expected to take place in Mumbai from 16-17 November, thus becoming the first event of the prize in India. Established in 2020 by Prince William, this international environmental project aims to provide innovative solutions to the major ecological problems.
- The sixth annual Awards Night will be held on 17 November, along with the summit of environmentalists, investors, and businesses. It will focus on five areas: nature restoration, clean air, ocean conservation, waste reduction, and climate solutions.
- Every year, fifteen finalists are chosen from five spheres; in each sphere, there is a winner, who will get £1 million to extend or scale up their solution. Each finalist also gets access to knowledge, network, and support to ensure further dissemination of innovations.

- **The Five Earthshot Prize Categories**
- 1. Protect and Restore Nature
 - Awards solutions that will protect the ecosystems, conserve biodiversity and restore degraded environments.
- 2. Clean Our Air
 - Celebrates innovations for reducing air pollution to help communities have clean air.
- 3. Revive Our Oceans
 - Celebrates innovations for protecting marine ecosystems and improving the condition of our oceans.
- 4. Build a Waste-Free World
 - Promotes waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.
- 5. Fix Our Climate
 - Acknowledges innovations that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change.
- **India's Record in the Earthshot Prize**

Initiative	Category	Awarded
Takachar	Clean Our Air	2021 Winner
Kheyti	Protect and Restore Nature	2022 Winner
Boomitra	Fix Our Climate	2023 Winner
S4S Technologies	Build a Waste-Free World	2023 Winner
Fleather, created by Phool	Build a Waste-Free World	2022 Finalist
Vinisha Umashankar	Clean Our Air	2021 Finalist

State of Gujarat

Clean
Our
Air

2025 Finalist



UAE Honours Indian Pilot Smit Machchhar

- UAE government honored Captain Smit Machchhar and the flydubai flight crew members responsible for handling the dangerous situation. His Highness UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan honored them with the First-Class Order of Zayed II in appreciation of their bravery and dedication in protecting the passengers.
- The awards were given out by Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence.
- The First-Class Order of Zayed II is an official state decoration of the United Arab Emirates named in honor of the country's founding president, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.
- It is awarded by the UAE President to recognize individuals for outstanding service, acts of bravery, significant diplomatic contributions, or devotion to the nation.



Sikkim Hosts First Himalayan Yak Festival

- Sikkim hosted its first Himalayan Yak Festival in Gnathang Valley from 28 October 2026. The valley lies near the India-China border. The state's Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department organised the festival to promote yak conservation, support herders' livelihoods and encourage tourism in high-altitude areas.
- The domestic yak is a member of the cattle family, Bovidae, and is adapted to cold, high-altitude environments. Its dense coat provides insulation, while its ability to graze on alpine vegetation supports pastoral livelihoods in the Himalaya. Yaks provide milk, meat, fibre and transport to communities in high-altitude regions.
- Around 400 to 500 yaks took part in the Gnathang Valley event. Stalls displayed yak products and advancements in artificial insemination for yak breeding. Artificial insemination is a reproductive technique in which semen is introduced into a female animal without natural mating.
- The Sikkimese yak is recognised as a distinct breed by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), an Indian Council of Agricultural Research institute based in Karnal, Haryana. Sikkim's estimated yak population is 5,312.
- Yak herding in Sikkim faces declining animal numbers, shrinking grazing grounds, unpredictable weather and reduced interest among younger generations. The festival included discussion of these concerns alongside yak conservation and herders' livelihoods.
- Gnathang-Machong MLA Pamin Lepcha said preparations had continued for a week despite harsh weather and expressed hope that the festival would become

annual. Thupden Lachungpa, an executive member of the Yak Federation of India, proposed establishing a “Himalayan Pole” or “Yak Pole” to recognise the yak’s regional importance.



Cabinet Approves Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana

- On 28 October 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening Panchayats and traditional local bodies. The scheme has an outlay of ₹7,395.55 crore for 2026–27 to 2030–31 and covers States and Union Territories.
- The total allocation comprises a central share of ₹4,869.48 crore and a state share of ₹2,526.07 crore. PM VGSY is scheduled for five years and is co-terminus with the period of the Sixteenth Finance Commission.
- Its stated objectives include strengthening village-level governance, improving development planning and increasing financial accountability among Panchayats.
- The scheme is intended to cover more than 2.55 lakh Panchayats and traditional local bodies. Around 32 lakh elected representatives, Panchayat functionaries and other stakeholders are expected to benefit directly through capacity building and training.
- The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj oversees the national policy framework for Panchayati Raj institutions.
- PM VGSY provides support for preparing 2.55 lakh holistic Gram Panchayat Development Plans annually through the eGramSwaraj portal. These plans enable Panchayats to set out local development priorities and activities.

- The scheme also includes capacity building for representatives and functionaries and measures to improve digital governance and financial accountability. E Gram Swaraj is a digital platform used for Panchayat planning, progress reporting and accounting-related processes.
- The 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj institutions and came into force on 24 April 1993. It inserted Part IX, covering Articles 243 to 243-O, into the Constitution. The 11th Schedule lists 29 subjects that may be devolved to Panchayats, including agriculture, rural housing, drinking water and roads.
- Article 243B provides for Panchayats at village, intermediate and district levels, subject to the constitutional exception for States with a population not exceeding 20 lakh. Article 243-I provides for a State Finance Commission every five years to review the financial position of Panchayats.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What position did the Bihar Museum secure in The World's 100 Best Museums 2026 list, according to the presentation?

- A) 5th
- B) 7th
- C) 9th
- D) 10th

Correct Answer: C) 9th

2. Who designed the Bihar Museum in collaboration with Opolis Architects?

- A) B. V. Doshi
- B) Fumihiko Maki
- C) Frank Gehry
- D) Zaha Hadid

Correct Answer: B) Fumihiko Maki

3. The Earthshot Prize was established in which year?

- A) 2018
- B) 2019
- C) 2020
- D) 2022

Correct Answer: C) 2020

4. How much prize money does each winner of an Earthshot Prize category receive?

- A) £250,000
- B) £500,000
- C) £1 million
- D) £2 million

Correct Answer: C) £1 million

5. Which Indian initiative won the Earthshot Prize in 2023 under the Fix Our Climate category, according to the presentation?

- A) Takachar
- B) Kheyti
- C) Boomitra
- D) S4S Technologies

Correct Answer: C) Boomitra

6. Which honour did the UAE confer on Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar and the flydubai flight crew?

- A) Order of Zayed
- B) First Class Order of Zayed II
- C) UAE Bravery Medal
- D) Order of the Union

Correct Answer: B) First Class Order of Zayed II

7. Where was Sikkim's first Himalayan Yak Festival held?

- A) Gangtok
- B) Lachung
- C) Gnathang Valley
- D) Namchi

Correct Answer: C) Gnathang Valley

8. The Sikkimese yak is recognised as a distinct breed by which organisation?

- A) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- B) National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources
- C) National Dairy Development Board
- D) Indian Veterinary Research Institute

Correct Answer: B) National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources

9. What is the total financial outlay of the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana?

- A) ₹5,395.55 crore
- B) ₹6,395.55 crore
- C) ₹7,395.55 crore
- D) ₹8,395.55 crore

Correct Answer: C) ₹7,395.55 crore

10. Which Article of the Indian Constitution provides for a State Finance Commission to review the financial position of Panchayats?

- A) Article 243B
- B) Article 243D
- C) Article 243G
- D) Article 243-I

Correct Answer: D) Article 243-I