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Graded Action Plan will be Implemented in 25 Districts of Bihar

Why In News?

On November 28, 2022, Bihar State Pollution Control Council Chairman Prof. Ashok Ghosh said in a press conference held at Parivesh Bhawan in Patna that the council has prepared a graded action plan, which will be implemented after six months in all the **25 districts** of the state where new monitoring stations have been set up to measure air quality.

Key Points

- Under the Graded Action Plan in the state, pollution will be banned in polluted cities with an **AQI of more than 100**.
- This ban will vary from city to city depending on the severity of pollution level (AQI). The responsibility of its implementation will be on the DMs of the respective districts and the concerned departments.
- It is known that according to the already made law related to environment, it is necessary to have a data of one year to implement such an action plan. Therefore, despite the graded action plan being prepared, it has not been implemented.
- It has been almost six months since the newly **installed 25 monitoring stations** were set up in **22 districts of the state and the Graded Action Plan** will be implemented after the completion of one year after the next six months.
- Prof. Ashok Ghosh said that if the AQI is more than 450 in the state, air pollution health emergency will be declared by the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority. Under the National Clean Air Programme a district-level implementation committee will be formed under the leadership of the DM, which will decide on taking other additional steps, including the closure of schools.

Commonwealth Power Lifting Competition

Why In News?

Recently, **Kriti Raj Singh of Patna district** of Bihar has brought laurels to Bihar and the country by **winning six gold medals in the Sub-Junior Commonwealth Power Lifting Competition** held in New Zealand.

Key Points

- Kriti won the Under **18 57 kg**. Won the victory in three events of the weight category. Kriti won one gold each in Row Band Press and Equate Bench Press and **95 kg** in Hole Power Lifting. Captured four gold medals by lifting weights.
- Earlier in July, Kriti had won **three bronze** medals in the National Sub-Junior Power Lifting Competition held in Hyderabad.
- Kriti Raj Singh, a resident of Bada Hasanpur village in Khusrupur block of Patna district, is a first-year physical education student from Rani Laxmibai Physical Education College in Guwahati. His father Lalan Singh Yadav is an ordinary farmer.
- Kriti Raj said that she started taking interest in sports since school time. It sought help from many big leaders to move forward but there was only assurance everywhere. IPS Pankaj Raj helped him with Rs 1 lakh.

Pollution Reaches Dangerous Level in Patna, Purnia and Darbhanga

Why In News?

According to the data released on December 4, 2022, air pollution has reached dangerous levels in Purnia, Darbhanga and the capital Patna of Bihar. The air quality index in **Purnia and Darbhanga has crossed 400**. At the same time, the AQI in the capital **Patna is 378**.

Key Points

- According to the data till 4 pm on December 4, the air quality index in Purnia had reached 423 and in Darbhanga 422. This dangerous level of air pollution is considered very harmful to human health.
- Pm 2.5 is the cause of pollution in almost all cities of Bihar. PM2.5 is a dust particle present in the air whose size is less than 2.5 microns. It can enter the body through breath and harm our health.
- Along with this, the pollution situation in all other major cities of Bihar is very bad. According to the data, Aurangabad has a very poor air quality of 342, Bettiah 354, Bhagalpur 335, Bihar Sharif 368, Gaya 313, Katihar 391, Munger 301, Rajgir 360, Saharsa 362, Samastipur 345. Sasaram's AQI was 329.

Note:

Bihar's Dharmendra Singh Broke 21 Bael from his Head in 1 minute, made his 7th World Record

Why In News?

On December 5, 2022, Dharmendra Singh of Bihar made a world record by breaking 21 unripe Bael from his head in 1 minute in the online competition organized by Netaji World Record Foundation.

Key Points

- Players from 32 countries participated in this online competition organized by Netaji World Record Foundation. In this competition, the Chinese player at number two broke 17 Bael and the Pakistan player at number three broke 15 Bael.
- Dharmendra Singh, who has been awarded the title of Hammer Head Man of India, is a resident of Ramgarh in Kaimur district. He is currently a Tripura state rifles personnel.
- It is worth mentioning that Dharmendra Singh had already set 6 world records, which included competitions like breaking coconut from head, breaking unripe Bael, turning Saria from tooth, turning Saria from head, skipping, turning Saria from back side. Dharmendra Singh's name is also recorded in the Guinness Book.

Asian Under-19 Rugby Championship

Why In News?

According to information received from the media on December 6, 2022, the Indian rugby team has been announced for the **Asian Under-19 Rugby Championship to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal** on December 10-11, 2022. In this team, four girls and four boys players from Bihar have been selected.

Key Points

- The training camp of the Indian team was held at **Balewadi Stadium in Pune** from November 8 to December 6, 30 boys and 30 girls' players from all over India participated in this training camp.

- **Aarti Kumari, Sapna Kumari, Dharamshila Kumari and Archana Kumari** have been selected in the girls' category from Bihar and **Armaan Alam, Harsh Raj, Saurabh Kumar and Raju Kumar** have been selected in the boys' category.
- Apart from this, Armaan Alam has also been made the captain of the Under-19 Indian Rugby Team, which is a big achievement for Bihar.
- It is known that 10 countries of the world are participating in this championship being held in Nepal.

Textile Park will be Developed in Gaya

Why In News?

On December 7, 2022, Bihar's Gaya district DM Dr. Thiyagarajan told that a textile park will be developed on the lines of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu near Shadipur Balu Ghat in Manpur in Gaya. About 23 acres of land marked for this park has been ordered to be made encroachment free.

Key Points

- After the construction of this park, the Falgu river will be kept pollution-free and people will get a golden opportunity for employment. At present, the colorful water of cloth dyeing is dropped in the river, about which complaints have been made many times.
- DM Dr. Thiyagarajan said that a state-of-the-art 435 units are being planned for the construction of this park, in which new types of state-of-the-art clothes including coats, pants will be manufactured. With the construction of textile parks, more number of jobs will be created at the local level as well as at the district level, due to which this area will be greatly developed in the future.
- He told the Chairman of The Weavers Service Committee that every effort will be made to support the distribution of loans for the textile industry and purchase of state-of-the-art machines by holding meetings with various banks.
- Prem Narayan Patwa, President of Textile Industry Weavers Service Committee, said that at present 980 units in their homes in Patwatoli, which are working on textile weaving with about 12500 power loom machines, employ about 30 to 35 thousand workers and workers. Apart from this, about 50 percent of it is women workers.

Note:

Construction of Ropeway Started in Vanavar of Bihar's Jehanabad

Why In News?

According to information received from the media on December 7, 2022, the construction of ropeway has started after a long time on the Vanavar mountain of Makhdumpur block, popularly known as the historic 'Himalayas of Magadh' in Jehanabad district of Bihar.

Key Points

- A camp office has been opened by the construction company in Hathiyabor in this hilly area of Jehanabad district and the forest in the hilly area has also been cleaned.
- The work of construction of ropeway has been entrusted by Bihar State Bridge Corporation to Bengal-based company Damodar Ropeway Construction Limited. In the hilly area, the construction company workers are breaking the stones at the identified places of the mountain and doing the work of peeling the stone with the help of drill machines.
- It is known that the approval for the construction of ropeway on Vanavar mountain was given by former MLA of Makhdumpur and former Bihar Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi in the cabinet meeting on November 16, 2016.
- However, a few months ago, the Forest Department has also given its approval and NOC for the construction of the ropeway, after which the work was started by Damodar Ropeway Company.
- The ropeway will be constructed from two areas in Vanavar mountain. In the first phase, work will be done from Hathiyabor and in the second phase from Patal Ganga.

Cargo Terminal

Why In News?

On December 7, 2022, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav informed that a cargo terminal will be built at Akbarnagar in Bhagalpur, Bihar.

Key Points

- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said that the cargo terminal to be built in Akbarnagar will be built under the leadership of Malda Divisional Railway Manager Vikas Choubey, which is expected to be completed by the year 2024.
- It is known that a similar terminal in Malda division of Eastern Railway has been commissioned at Godda.
- The Railway Minister informed that Indian Railways will set up dozens of cargo terminals in the next three years. While **22 cargo terminals** have already been commissioned, **125 applications have been received for development of such terminals and 79 have been given in-principle approval.**
- Railways has given in-principle approval to Bihar Logistics Private Limited for construction of terminal for Food Corporation of India to facilitate the process.
- Silo type containers will be used in this cargo terminal. Silos are basically designed to store grains and other materials. This type of storage is rarely used in India.

50-Bed Critical Care Unit to be Set Up at Gaya Magadh Medical Hospital

Why In News?

On December 9, 2022, the Superintendent in-charge of Magadh Medical Hospital, Gaya, Dr. N K Paswan said that there is a **proposal to set up a critical care unit in the hospital** premises. In this, serious patients of **heart disease, breathing, head injury, physical injury, surgery and other diseases** will be treated.

Key Points

- The Superintendent in-charge said that 70 percent of the contribution in the construction of the unit will be given by the Central Government and the remaining 30 percent will be given by the State Government.
- This unit will be equipped with state-of-the-art equipment. The unit will have portable X-ray machine, portable sonography, advanced equipment among other facilities.
- It is worth mentioning that till now the emphasis was on referring critical patients to Magadh Medical Hospital.

Note:



These include most of the patients of accidental and burn. Due to the absence of a cardiology department in the hospital, patients related to it rarely reach here for treatment.

BPSC Releases Main Exam Question Format for the First Time

Why In News?

On December 9, 2022, the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) has released the **format for the first time of the 67th Combined Main Competitive Examination**. It will have the same format of **all subjects except civil engineering and anthropology**. There will be six questions based on different parts of the syllabus, in which the first and fourth questions will be short-answer.

Key Points

- All questions in the first question will be from section one, while all the short-answer questions of the fourth question will be from section two. Question numbers two and three will be descriptive, with one question as an alternative to each question. Both these questions will be from section one with options. Questions five and six will have two options each. Both these questions will be from section two with options and each of them has to be answered.
- There are three parts of the syllabus in anthropology. There will be section one to two questions. The first question will consist of **short-answer questions** and will be asked from the entire syllabus of **section one**. Question number **two will be descriptive in nature** and will also have an option each. This question will be from section 1 of the syllabus with options.
- Section Two will have **two sub-sections A and B**. There will be **two descriptive questions** in both of them and there will also be options for both. All these questions will be based on the syllabus of Section II and both the questions of one of the sub-sections will have to be answered.
- Section three will have two questions, the first of which will be **short-answer and will have questions from the entire syllabus of Section 3**. The second question will be descriptive and will also have an option. This question along with the option will be

from the syllabus of section three. Candidates will have to answer both the questions.

- The first question of **Civil Engineering will be short-answer**, which will be asked from the entire syllabus of Section One. Part A, B and C of Section I will be asked three questions including options, of which candidates will have to answer any two. Question number five which will be the first question of Section II will be short-answer and will have four parts. Any two of these parts have to be answered.
- There will also be four descriptive questions including options based on Part A, B, C, D of the syllabus of Section II, of which candidates will have to answer two.

Libraries of 15 Universities in Bihar to be Linked online

Why In News?

On December 11, 2022 according to information received from the media, the Education Department is going to sign an MoU with **UGC- INFLIBNET to connect all libraries of all 15 traditional universities of Bihar online**.

Key Points

- The MoU will be signed at a function in the presence of the Education Minister in the presence of the Education Minister and vice-chancellors/registrars of all 15 universities.
- According to official information, through this MoU, every university will know online which book is in which university. If the book is not in digitization form, then the university itself will provide the book from another university to get that book. The financial burden on this will be borne by the university itself.
- Under this new system, a catalogue of books will be created. Students and research scholars will not have to pay any money from their own pocket for this facility. In this way, research scholars and teachers of universities of the state will soon get the gift of inter-library loan.
- This entire exercise will be done on the UGC guidelines. For this, an automation system of university libraries will be created, in which barcodes of books etc. will also be given. Apart from this, Research Ganga, Research Cycle, **e-Shodh Sindhu and Shodh Suddhi System** will be made effective.

Note:

Bihar Municipal Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Model Bye-laws 2022

Why In News?

On December 12, 2022 **Bihar Municipal Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Model Bye-law, 2022** was approved in a meeting of the Bihar Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Under this, for the first time, the government has made a provision to impose a fine on those who use single-use polythene.

Key Points

- After the cabinet meeting, Additional Chief Secretary of the Cabinet Irrigation Department Dr. S Siddhartha told the press conference that now those using single-use polythene and items made from it will have to pay a fine. The penalty amount has also been fixed on those who manufacture, import, store, distribute and sell it.
- According to the provision, it will also be illegal to organize any sports and gatherings and use single-use polythene in it without informing the local body and making arrangements according to this bye-laws.
- For depositing more than 100 persons, the organizer will have to pay a fine of Rs 1500 for the first time, Rs 2,000 for the second time and Rs 2500 every time thereafter. If there is more than one organizer, all of them will have to pay different fine amounts.
- Additional Chief Secretary said that single-use polythene and items made from it include plastic dandiya of ear buds, plastic dandiya of balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice cream dandiyas, items made of polystyrene (Pharmacol) for decoration, cups, plates, glasses, cutlery items such as thorns, spoons. These include plastic films wrapped or packaged around sweet cartons, invitation cards and cigarette packets, and plastic or PVC banners with a thickness of less than 100 microns.
- Those using materials like earbuds, flags, candy sticks, plate cups, forks and spoons will be fined Rs 2,000 for the first time, Rs 3,000 for the second time and Rs 5,000 for repeat offences. Similarly, commercial users of these materials will be fined Rs 1500 for the first time, Rs 2500 for the second beer and Rs 3500 for more.

- Apart from this, a fine of Two thousand rupees will be charged for the first time, three thousand rupees for the second time and five thousand rupees every time for the use of multi-layer packaging or plastic seat or cover made of plastic seat or sheet of similar item which is not labeled or marked according to plastic waste management.
- For the first time, a fine of Rs 2,000 will be imposed, Rs 3,000 for the second time and Rs 5,000 per time.
- The fine for littering plastic waste in public places, parks, drains, archaeological sites and other prohibited places will be Rs 1,000 for the first time, Rs 1,500 for the second time and Rs 2,000 every time thereafter.

Government Servants will be able to Sit for a Maximum of Five Times in the Competitive Examinations of BPSC and BTSC

Why In News?

In the state cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on December 12, 2022, it was decided that the government servants of the state government will appear in competitive examinations conducted by **Bihar Public Service Commission, Bihar Technical Service Commission and Bihar Staff Selection Commission throughout their service period**. Now you can participate a maximum of **five times**.

Major points

- After the cabinet meeting, Additional Chief Secretary of the Cabinet Secretariat Department, Dr. Siddharth told a press conference that the limit of opportunities has been approved for government servants of the Bihar government under the General Administration Department to appear in competitive examinations.
- According to the cabinet decision, **a maximum of 5 (five) opportunities will be allowed** separately for government servants of Bihar government to appear in the examinations conducted by each commission (**BPSC, BTSC, BSSC**) during their entire service period after coming to service.

Note:



- The calculation of the stipulated 5 occasions will commence from the date of issue of the resolution. Opportunities consumed in the past will be neglected.
- Government servants of The Government of Bihar will be allowed to appear in the competitive examination in the maximum age limit prescribed for regular appointment to participate in competitive examinations, but the said age limit will be allowed to appear in the competitive examination within a **period of 5 years only** if they have not consumed a maximum of 5 opportunities till then.
- Earlier, there was a provision for state government servants to appear in competitive examinations for a maximum of three times.

Bihar Industries Department Released the Ranking of Industrial Development for the First Time

Why In News?

On December 13, 2022, Principal Secretary of Bihar Industries Department Sandeep Poundrik informed that the state industries department has released the ranking of industrial development for the first time, in which districts have been ranked on the basis of implementation of industrial schemes.

Key Points

- In this ranking of industrial development in the state, Siwan (73.5 points) is in first place and Patna (68 points) is in second place.
- Apart from this, Munger, Sheikhpura, Saharsa, Kishanganj, Buxar, Begusarai, Nalanda and Kaimur districts have also been kept in the first 10 districts for the implementation of the schemes. The last five districts include Banka, Supaul, Gaya, Madhepura and Katihar.
- Sandeep Poundrik said that the district-wise ranking has been prepared based on the efforts made by the districts in the implementation of Mukhyamantri Udyami Yojana, Bihar Startup, dialogue with banks and entrepreneurs, MSME scheme, PMFM e-Yojana, PMEGP scheme etc.

Multi Modal Transport Hub

Why In News?

According to the information received from the media on December 14, 2022, the work of building an ambitious plan of **Smart City Multi Modal Transport Hub** has started near Patna Junction. About 67 crores will be spent on this under the scheme.

Key Points

- According to the information, the process of making a transport hub on about 3.38 acres has started at the place of goat market near Patna Junction. There will be a **capacity to accommodate about 296 vehicles** in a total of four floors including underground, ground, first and second floors.
- The work of making this smart city project has been started by the Building Construction Corporation. A company named Govinda Construction will prepare this project. The company has to complete this project in June 2023 .
- It is worth mentioning that instructions have been given by the Central Government to complete all the smart city schemes by June next year, so efforts are being made to complete the work on all the projects expeditiously.
- A 440-meter subway is being constructed to reach Patna Junction from the multi-modal transport hub. It will have 340 meters underground. The subway will have escalators, travelators and walkways, fire extinguishers, lights, LED screens and drainage systems. With this, people will go straight to the junction premises (old milk market).

Bihar in the Most Polluted Cities of the Country

Why In News?

According to data released by the Central Pollution Control Board on December 14, 2022, **five of the top five most polluted cities in the country are from Bihar. Purnea is the most polluted city** across the country with an **AQI of 450**.

Note:

Key Points

- **Darbhanga is the second most polluted city** in the country after Purnea with an AQI of 446. **Bettiah is in third place** with an AQI of 439. Begusarai with 421 AQI and **Katihar** with 420 AQI have been the **fifth most polluted city in the country**.
- According to the data, Patna's AQI is 347. Here pollution has come down from dangerous levels to very poor levels.
- **Araria, Bhagalpur, Biharsharif, Chhapra, Kishanganj, Motihari, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Purnea, Samastipur and Siwan** have an AQI of more than 300. In this way, the air of these cities has reached very poor levels.
- Significantly, an AQI of more than 400 is considered to be an alarming level of pollution. It is very dangerous for human health.

Bihar Municipality Bill, 2022

Why In News?

On December 15, 2022, the Bihar Municipality Bill, 2022 was passed amid uproar in the Patna Assembly. Under this, before demolishing public land, the local bodies will have to inform the encroachers first.

Key Points

- It was passed amid uproar by members charged over the Saran poisoning tragedy. According to the body, the marked documents can be removed only after 24 hours of issuing the body notice officer and associated documents after a notice period of 15 days.
- Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav said that the state government is coming out with a rehabilitation policy to provide alternative accommodation to the slum dwellers. As per preliminary survey, the government is preparing to rehabilitate 48,000 affected slum dwellers whose houses were demolished during the recent operations in Patna.
- Along with this, the Assembly has also passed the Bihar Technical Service Commission Bill, 2022.

13th Film Festival

Why In News?

On December 16, 2022 in a press conference held at Chajju Bagh, senior litterateur Yadavendra, film festival

convenor Preeti Prabha and Hiral convenor Santosh Jha said that the **13th Patna Film Festival** will be celebrated in **Patna** from December 19 to December 21.

Key Points

- The festival, to be held at Kalidas Rangalaya will showcase a dozen films which the audience will be able to watch free of cost.
- A total of eight filmmakers from Mumbai, Kerala, Kolkata, Delhi, Aligarh and Ranchi are coming up with their films at the festival. There will also be a section of local young filmmakers.
- The 13th Film Festival will be inaugurated by senior Hindi poet and professor at IIT, Hyderabad, Harjinder Singh Laltu. The first day will showcase films based on two literary works, namely Samvadiya (Phanishwar Nath Renu) and Laut Rahi Hai Bela Ekka (Arun Prakash). The screening of the film will be followed by an audience interaction session with the directors present.
- The last film to be screened at the festival will be **"Matto Ki Cycle"**. Well-known film director Prakash Jha has played the lead role in it. The film premiered at the Busan International Film Festival. Its director. Ghani will also attend the film festival.

Now 611 Types of Medicines will be Available Free of Cost in Government Hospitals of Bihar

Why In News?

On December 16, 2022 the Bihar government has issued a new guideline regarding the distribution of medicines in government hospitals. According to the new rule, now patients undergoing treatment in government hospitals will get **611 types of medicines** free of cost.

Key Points

- After the emergence of new diseases, the government has issued a new guideline for the distribution of medicines in government hospitals. Under this, patients will no longer have to buy medicines from private shops.
- In the new resolution issued by the government, it has been decided to distribute a total of 611 types of medicines in OPD and IPD in hospitals from medical college to district hospital and health sub-center.

Note:



- OPD and IPD in government hospitals of Bihar
 - Medical College: OPD-356, IPD-256
 - District Hospital: OPD-287, IPD-169
 - Sub-Divisional Hospital: OPD-212, IPD-101
 - Community Health Centres: OPD-212, IPD-97
 - Referral Hospital: OPD-203, IPD-98
 - Primary Health Centres: OPD-201, IPD-93
 - Urban PHCs: OPD-180
 - Additional Primary Health Centres: OPD-140, IPD-53
 - Health and Wellness Centre: OPD-151
 - Health Sub-Centre Telemedicine: OPD-97
 - Health Sub-CentreL1: OPD-72
 - Health Sub-Centre: OPD-32
- Mental Science Centre Koilwar: OPD-144

Raxaul-Haldia Expressway will Start in 2023

Why In News?

According to information received from media sources on December 18, 2022, Bihar is going to get the gift of a new expressway soon. DPR is being prepared for the construction of greenfield expressway from Raxaul in the state to Haldia in West Bengal. Construction of the expressway will begin in 2023.

Key Points

- According to information received from sources, about **695 km**. The Raxaul-Haldia expressway will be constructed at a cost of about Rs 54,000 crore. Along with this, the deadline for completion of this road has been fixed at 2025.
- The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has approved the **Raxaul to Haldia Expressway to enhance connectivity from Nepal Port to Haldia Port in West Bengal**. With the construction of this road, the distance from Deoghar to Kathmandu will be completed in just 12 hours.
- Raxaul-Haldia Expressway will pass through several districts of Bihar and reach Haldia in Jharkhand and West Bengal. During this time it will pass through about nine districts of the state. These include West Champaran, East Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Saran, Patna, Biharsharif, Sheikhpura, Jamui and Banka. After this, this expressway will enter Jharkhand and

go from Saraiyahat, Nonihat and Dumka to Haldia Port from Panagarh in West Bengal.

- In fact, most of the goods for Nepal come from other countries other than India, but to go to Nepal, the goods land at Haldia Sea-Port. At Haldia Port, goods disembark from the ship and reach the Dryport at Sirisiya in Raxaul by truck and train. From here, goods are delivered to Raxaul and nearby cities of India. At the same time, goods coming to Nepal are sent to Jharkhand and West Bengal from Raxaul Dryport. The construction of the new expressway will also facilitate the transportation of goods.

Bihar's Green Budget decreased by 3.26 Percent Compared to Last Year

Why In News?

On December 16, 2022, Bihar's third financial year 2022-23 green budget was presented in the winter session. There has been a decrease of **3.26 percent in the green budget as compared to the previous years**.

Key Points

- There has been a decrease in budget allocation on schemes and programs of the departments identified under the Green Budget. In the year 2021-22, the budget was Rs 79359 crore, which has come down to Rs 79255 crore in 2022-23, while the total budget allocation for programs has also come down from Rs 29337 crore to Rs 28380 crore.
- Significantly, Bihar is the first state in the country, which has been presenting a green budget. This helps in the implementation of the schemes being run by the departments for environmental protection. With the help of this budget, budgetary provisions are studied and assessed from an environmental point of view.
- The state government is focusing on this budget keeping in mind climate change. Bihar is one of the few states in the country that is also promoting agriculture according to climate change.
- The highest allocation in the scheme items in the Green Budget is made by the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. In the current financial year, out of Rs 663 crore allocated for the scheme item in this department, Rs 655 crore has been reserved

Note:

for green schemes. This is 98.74 percent of the total scheme item.

- In this case, the Sugarcane Industry Department is in second place. The allocation for the scheme item in the department was Rs 100 crore, out of which Rs 98.70 crore was allocated for green schemes. At the same time, small water resources is in third place, out of the total allocation of Rs 827 crore for the scheme, Rs 796 crore has been allocated for green schemes.

Deduction of Marks Under Swachh Survekshan 2023

Why in discussion?

According to the information received from the media on December 19, 2022, in order to get a better ranking in the Swachh Survekshan-2023, all the municipal bodies of Bihar will have to make advertisements in more digital way. Because in Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 and Swachh Survekshan, if flex, polythene or plastic is used for branding under any circumstances, then 25 marks will be directly deducted.

Key Points

- According to the information, the ranking will deteriorate if plastic flakes and banners are installed. For this, the ministry has issued guidelines to all the municipal bodies of the state.
- After this, at the local level, instead of banners and flags, the Muzaffarpur Municipal Corporation has started giving messages making people aware about cleanliness through LED screens attached to Smart City at various places in the city. After preparing its action plan, the survey has been uploaded on the website of the central government.
- This time, the maximum focus will be on artworks and slogans during the entire competition. According to the theme, this time 48 percent i.e., 4525 marks will be based on service level program alone i.e., segregation, processing and disposal of garbage; 27 percent i.e., 2500 marks will be for certification; and 25 percent i.e., 2475 marks will be for citizen voice.
- The wards will get marks as follows -
 - 25 points for more than 95 percent wide publicity in wards.
 - 20 points for 75 to 90 percent publicity in wards.
 - 15 points for 50 to 74 percent publicity in wards.
 - 10 points for less than 50 percent publicity in wards.

Memorial of Benipuri will be Built on the Banks of Bagmati Dam

Why In News?

On December 20, 2022, Dr. Mahant Rajiv Ranjan Das said that the government has approved the proposal to build a memorial of Ram Vriksh Benipuri on the land allotted by the Bihar government on the banks of Bagmati dam.

Key Points

- Dr. Mahant Rajiv Ranjan Das said that Rs 4.13 crore will be spent on the construction of Ram Vriksh Benipuri memorial to be built on the banks of Bagmati dam. There are 1.4 acres and 14 decimals of land allotted outside the Bagmati dam. His life-size statue will be installed in the memorial complex.
- He said that along with this memorial, construction of boundary wall, park, reading room and library and main gate is also proposed.
- It is known that Bihar Legislative Council Chairman Devesh Chandra Thakur was constantly making efforts for this memorial. With his efforts, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has approved the construction of the memorial.
- Ram Vriksh Benipuri was the father of the Muzaffarpur socialist movement, freedom fighter and eminent writer.
- It is noteworthy that the **Bagmati River originates from Nepal in the Mahabharata ranges** of the Himalayas. This river travels about **195 kilometers in Nepal and enters Sitamarhi district of Bihar in India**. The total length of this river in Bihar is 394 kilometers. The total catchment area of this river in Nepal is 7884 square kilometers.

There will be a Big Change in the Rules of Teacher Planning in Bihar

Why In News?

According to information received from the media on December 22, 2022, preparations are being made to make major changes in **the rules of teacher planning in the seventh phase in the context of teacher planning in**

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Bihar. A single manual has been prepared for the appointment of teachers from primary stage to higher secondary level. Earlier, the rules used to be different.

Key Points

- Under the change in the rules of teacher employment in the state, this time Panchayati Raj institutions will not restore the vacant posts of more than **1.5 lakh teachers of different classes**. The **state government is going to remove the role of Panchayati Raj** from the teacher selection process.
- Centralized units will be formed at the district level to finalize the teacher recruitment process. This institution will not only counsel the recommended candidates for the post of teacher at the district level, but will also distribute appointment letters to them. Appointment letters will be distributed to all selected teachers from panchayat to block and urban bodies from the district headquarters itself.
- All the above facts have been proposed in the rules being prepared for the seventh phase of teacher employment. The rules have been sent for the opinion of the top officers of the state government and the opinion of the top officers will be included by the committee to make the rules of departmental officers and finalize it and send it to the cabinet.
- There will be no written test and interview in the selection process. However, three options have been suggested for the selecting agency. For this, one of the agencies is to be selected from **Bihar Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission and Bihar Technical Service Commission**.
- This time the vacancies of all including **primary, middle, secondary, higher secondary teachers, physical education and health services, laboratory assistant, librarian, computer teacher** will be taken out simultaneously. Their appointment schedule will be in the same time period. The appointment will be made on a choice basis. All will be placed in the district cadre.

Shalini Kumari from Bihar won the First Prize for Her Innovation 'Modified Walker with Adjustable Legs'

Why In News?

On December 21, 2022, Shalini Kumari from Bihar received the **first prize for her innovation 'Modified**

Walker with Adjustable Legs' at the grassroots innovation competition at the 3rd ASEAN-India Grassroots Innovation Forum.

Key Points

- Shalini Kumari from the General Department of Science, Technology and Innovation under His Excellency Dr. Hul Singheng, **Chairman of the Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI) Cambodia and Director General of the Ministry of Industry Science, Technology and Innovation (MISTI)** in the Kingdom of Cambodia received the award. She won a cash prize of **US\$1,500** for being the first prize winner.
- The second and third prizes were won by grassroots innovators from the Philippines and Myanmar, respectively, who won **US\$1000 and US\$500 respectively**. A total of **45 grassroots innovators participated and represented 9 countries** in this competition.
- The first and second prizes in the student innovation competition were won by participants from Thailand, while the third prize was won by a student from Lao PDR. **A total of 37 participants representing 9 countries participated** in the competition.
- Shalini Kumari, the first prize winner, is a resident of Patna. He was first recognized by the National Innovation Foundation, an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology, **for his technology through the IGNITE** competition in 2011.
- It may be noted that the Committee of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI)** in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India and The National Innovation Foundation (NIF) 19-21 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia The 3rd ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum was held till December.
- The forum included grassroots innovation competition, student innovation competition, panel discussion, keynote address and an exhibition of innovations involving participants from India and ASEAN Member States (AMS).
- The **3rd ASEAN-India Grassroots Innovation Forum as well as the second Government Meeting in Cambodia** was also held in which representatives from ASEAN member countries, India and ASEAN Secretariat were also held.

Note:



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- The ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology and the National Innovation Foundation organizes the annual COETI, which includes conference sessions, innovation competitions and an exhibition. Bringing together key participants i.e. government officials, grassroots innovators, student innovators, academicians, business actors and the wider community, the platform provides a space to promote and strengthen the development of innovation/innovation ecosystem at the grassroots level.
- The **first two forums were held in Indonesia (2018) and the Philippines (2019)** respectively, while there was a brief two-year break due to the pandemic.

STP and Drainage Systems to be built in 16 Cities of Bihar at a cost of Rs. 1136 crore

Why in News?

- According to information received from the media on December 23, 2022, a Plan has been prepared for the construction of Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs) and drainage at a cost of Rs. 1136 crore for Drainage and Drainage of Waterlogging and Dirty Water in 16 cities of Bihar. A Detailed Plan (DPR) of these Schemes has been prepared and sent to the State and Central Government for approval.

Key Points

- Keeping in view the need of cities, Plan for Drainage Network and STP have been prepared. According to the DPR, three Sewerage Treatment Plants of different capacities will be set up in Kishanganj, Raxaul and Motihari towns, while two each STPs will be set up in Jamui, Saharsa and Darbhanga.
- As soon as the approval of the State Project Management Group (SPMG) and the National Mission for Clean Ganga is received, the tender process and agency will be duly selected and the work will start.
- Apart from this, the process of construction of DPR for Sewerage Network and STP in five cities of the State is going on.
- According to official information, work will be done on Fecal Salz Treatment Plants (Human Waste Management) in three of the 16 cities of the State,

Dighawara, Manihari and Teghra. Through this plant, organic manure will be made from the Silt of Toilet tank.

- The dirt coming from the Treatment Plant will be disposed of, composted and the water will be cleaned and brought to other uses.
- It is known that at present, the Silt of Septic tanks in the State is filled in tanks and dropped on the roadside in the open, thereby polluting the environment.

Bihar's Kosi-Mechi Interlinking Project

Why In News?

According to information received from the media on December 25, 2022, the way has been cleared for the construction of Bihar's very ambitious **Kosi-Mechi link project**. A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** has been signed with the **Water Resources Department and the National Water Development Agency of the Department of Water Resources under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti** to prepare the DPR of this project.

Key Points

- On completion of the Kosi-Mechi link project, about 2.1 lakh hectare area in four districts of Seemanchal in the state will get irrigation facilities and relief from floods. These include Purnea, Katihar, Kishanganj and Araria districts.
- The project will irrigate about 69,000 hectares in Araria district, about 69,000 hectares in Purnea district, 39,000 hectares in Kishanganj district and 35,000 hectares in Katihar district.
- The Kosi-Mechi link project will benefit Forbesganj, Kursakata, Sikti, Palasi, Jokihat and Araria blocks under Araria district. At the same time, Terhagachh, Dighalbank, Bahadur Ganj and Kocha Dhaman blocks under Kishanganj district will be benefited.
- Apart from this, Baisa, Amour and Baisi blocks under Purnea district and Kadwa, Dandkhora, Pranpur, Manihari and Ahmedabad blocks under Katihar district will be benefited.
- It is known that approval has already been received from the state cabinet to start the work of Kosi-Mechi link project. In May 2022 itself, the state government had approved administrative and expenditure of about Rs 2.78 crore for DPR formation, survey and exploration work.

Note:



- The state government has approved budgetary provisions in the form of 60 percent central share and 40 percent state share, including this project in the national project by the central government.
- However, the state government continues to demand 90 percent central share and 10 percent state budgetary provision for the Kosi-Mechi link project on the lines of Madhya Pradesh's Ken-Betwa link project.
- A total of about 1397 hectares of land is required under this project, out of which 632 hectares is already acquired, while 765 hectares of private land is to be acquired.

Plan to Clean Ground Water in 'Namami Gange'

Why In News?

On December 26, 2022, **Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation (BUDCO)** MD Dharmendra Singh said that under the **Namami Gange project** in the state, the work of keeping rivers as well as groundwater clean will start, for which 78 small towns have also been selected.

Key Points

- BUDCO MD Dharmendra Singh said that under this project, the water of drains of **78 small towns of Bihar** will also be cleaned and fell into rivers or ponds. The work of building sewerage treatment plants in these cities will start soon.
- It is known that the drain water of many cities in the state is being discharged directly into the rivers. In many cities ponds or low-lying plots are washed away. These small towns or bodies were selected two months ago, which have a total of **138 urban bodies** with a population of more than twenty thousand.
- He informed that at present STPs are ready in **26 urban bodies**. At the same time, DPR has been approved for STPs in **18 cities or bodies**. The DPR of two bodies Buxar and Khagaria is being revised. STP work is also underway in three other bodies - Rajgir, Bodh Gaya and Bihar Sharif. Applications have been sought from agencies for preparation of DPR of STPs in eleven new cities. In this way, the work of constructing STPs for a total of 60 bodies or cities has either been done or is in the process.

- Dharmendra Singh said that the state government is constantly working to keep various water sources including rivers and ponds pollution free. Work is also being done on this under the '**Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali**' Scheme. It has also been decided to build a treatment plant to clean the dirty water of small towns of the state.
- He said that the government has also decided to conduct a survey of all the water sources of the state so that their accurate data is available and a plan is made on the basis of that and these water sources can be developed for fish production. This will not only improve the groundwater level of the state, but also keep the water of the water sources clean.
- Under the project, most of the small bodies will be equipped with **FSTP (Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant)** i.e. waste treatment plants. At present, when a septic tank is filled in most small towns, it is thrown into drains or thrown into drains at other places through tankers. Now it will be disposed of safely. This will get rid of groundwater pollution. Along with this, organic manure and waste water will also be able to irrigate the fields.

Water Sports Centre to open in Kaimur

Why In News?

According to information received from the media on December 28, 2022, preparations have been made to open a water sports center for tourism development in Kaimur district of Bihar. In this regard, the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India has directed the Kaimur district administration to select suitable dam sites or broad river banks or large ghats for setting up centers for water sports.

Key Points

- A letter has been sent from the state government level to the district administrations of Kaimur, Patna, Nalanda, Bhojpur, Buxar and Sasaram, citing the demand of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India to promote water sports in the state.
- Significantly, the Uttar Pradesh government is operating a water sports center in Ramgarh Lake, one of the lakes

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of the state, in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh adjacent to Kaimur. State level and national level competitions of water are organized there.

- If the Water Sports Center is started operating in Kaimur district, then the tourists coming to these centers, including water sports players, will also get a golden opportunity to enjoy water sports.
- According to the information, sports facilities like boating, water biking, skiing etc. will be developed at water sports centers. Various sports competitions like water sports, boat race, swimming, etc. can also be organized at these centers.
- With the restoration of these facilities, the identity of water sports centers will be established at the national level and local players of the water sector will get a golden opportunity to nurture their talent and practice with high level players.
- In Kaimur district, there are many picturesque water areas in the hilly valleys including Karkatgarh, Telhar Kund, Jagdahwan Dam, where people have been visiting throughout the year with special occasions.
- Durgavati reservoir project can be the most favorable site for water sports center. The water storage area of the project is spread over a range of 627 sq km.
- The project has been prepared by connecting three hills of Kaimur and Rohtas districts. At present, boating facility is also provided to tourists in its water area.
- Apart from this, the water storage area of this project has now become a center of migratory birds and efforts are being made to develop it as a Bird Sanctuary.

Sahitya Akademi Translation Award

Why In News?

On December 29, 2022, the Sahitya Akademi announced the award for translation of the year 2022 in Hindi, Maithili and Konkani languages. **Ratneshwar Mishra will be given the Maithili language award for his Maithili translation of Chaman Nahal's English novel 'Azadi'.**

Key Points

- The Sahitya Akademi translators will receive an engraved copper plaque and a sum of Rs 50,000 at a special function next year.
- Former chairman of the PG History Department of **Lalit Narayan Mithila University**, Darbhanga. Ratneshwar Mishra is originally a resident of Purnea and currently lives in Patna. One of Mithila's famous historians, 77-year-old Dr. Mishra Akshar also makes serious interventions in the field of spiritual practice. Dr. Mishra's works include '**Modern Mithilak Historical Dimension**' published in Maithili as well as '**Vinodanand Jha: Biography and Surroundings**' in Hindi, '**Incredible Bihar**', '**History of Purnia: 1722-1793**' in English, '**Ninth Century Mithila: Finuks Survey of a Village**' are prominent.
- Apart from this, Maithili translations of Dr. Mishra's books '**Bhavabhuti**', '**History of Tamil**' and '**India's History**' have also been published. He has also translated Acharya Surendra Jha Suman's Maithili novel 'Ugnak Dayadbad' into English.



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Key Points

Details

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Summary

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