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BIHAR

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PM Unveils Development Projects in Bihar

Why in News?

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled development projects worth ₹ 21,400 crore in Bihar's Aurangabad district.

Key Points

- National highway projects worth over ₹ 18,000 crore were inaugurated.
- The PM laid the **foundation stone for a six-lane bridge over the Ganga**, which will be constructed parallel to the existing **JP (Jayaprakash Narayan) Ganga Setu**. Also, the foundation stone of Unity Mall in Patna, which will be constructed at a cost of over ₹ 200 crore, and provide a boost to the **'One District, One Product'** project.
- He dedicated to the nation three railway projects, which include the doubling of the Pataliputra-Pahleja line and a 26-km-long new line between Bandhua and Paimar.
- The PM also inaugurated 12 projects worth over 2,190 crore under the **Namami Gange scheme**.
 - These include sewerage treatment plants in **Patna, Sonepur, Naugachia, and Chapra**.

One District One Product Initiative

- ODOP is an initiative to **boost economic growth at the district level by promoting and branding one product from each district** of the country.
- The idea is to **leverage the local potential, resources, skills, and culture of each district and create a unique identity for them** in the domestic and international markets.
- The **concept of ODOP was first launched by the Uttar Pradesh government in January 2018**.
 - The scheme was successful in reviving the traditional industries and crafts of the state, such as **chikankari embroidery, brassware, pottery, carpets, leather goods, etc.**
 - Inspired by it, the **central government adopted the concept and launched it as a national initiative**.

Namami Gange Scheme

- Namami Gange Programme is an **Integrated Conservation Mission**, approved as a **'Flagship**

Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 to accomplish the **twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga**.

- It is being operated under the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- The program is being implemented by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**, and its state counterpart organizations i.e State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).
- NMCG is the implementation wing of **National Ganga Council** (was set up in 2016; which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority - NGRBA).

PM Unveils Projects in Bihar

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister unveiled **projects worth Rs 12,800 crore** in Bihar's West Champaran district.

Key Points

- The PM unveiled the projects at a function, **'Viksit Bharat-Viksit Bihar'**, in Bettiah, the district headquarters of West Champaran.
- He **laid the foundation stone** and dedicated to the nation:
 - Multiple **infrastructure projects** related to rail, road, petroleum and natural gas.
 - The **city gas distribution project** in East and West Champaran, Gopalganj, Siwan and Deoria, and **grain-based ethanol facilities** at Sugauli and Lauriya.
 - The construction of a **six-lane cable bridge** on the **Ganga river**, parallel to the Digha-Sonepur rail-cum-road bridge at Patna, and four-laning of Bakarpur Hat-Manikpur section of NH-19 bypass.
 - The doubling and electrification of the 96-km-long Gorakhpur CanttValmiki Nagar rail line and the redevelopment of Bettiah station.
- **He inaugurated:**
 - The two-laning of the Piprakothi-Motihari-Raxaul section of the National Highway-28A and the two-laning of the Sheohar-Sitamarhi section of NH-104.
 - A 109-km-long Indian Oil's Muzaffarpur-Motihari LPG pipeline that will provide access to cleaner cooking fuel in the state and also in Nepal.

Note:



- Indian Oil's LPG bottling plant and storage terminal at Motihari.
- The 62-km line from Bapudham Motihari to Piprahan and the gauge conversion of the Narkatiaganj-Gaunaha section.
- He flagged off two trains in the Narkatiaganj-Gaunaha and Raxaul-Jogbani sections.

'Ayushman Bharat' Cards Issued in Bihar

Why in News?

Recently, the Bihar Government has decided to provide "free medical treatment up to ₹5 lakh every year to all ration card holders of the state under the **Ayushman Bharat Scheme**.

Key Points

- Ayushman Bharat cards were issued to **1.03 crore families** in just six days (till 11 am of March 8).
- All ration card holders covered under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013** get 5 kg of rice, and can avail free treatment up to ₹5 lakh every year.
- According to data compiled by the state health department, the **maximum number of Ayushman Bharat cards** at 5,99,609 were issued in **Siwan district** in the six-day campaign, followed by 5,44,018 in Muzaffarpur, 5,00,292 in Patna and 4,72,977 in Madhubani.
- Districts where **less than one lakh Ayushman Bharat cards were issued** in the special campaign are Munger (99,984), Kishanganj (76,861), Sheikhpura (58,132) and Sheohar (47,288).

Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

- PM-JAY is the **world's largest health insurance** scheme fully financed by the government.
- Launched in February 2018, it offers a sum insured of **Rs.5 lakh per family for secondary care** and tertiary care.
- Health Benefit Packages covers surgery, medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.
- **Beneficiaries:**
 - It is an entitlement-based scheme that targets the beneficiaries as identified by latest **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data**.

- The National Health Authority (NHA) has provided flexibility to **States/UTs to use non- Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) beneficiary family databases** with similar socio-economic profiles for tagging against the leftover (unauthenticated) SECC families.

➤ Funding:

- The funding for the scheme is shared – **60:40 for all states and UTs** with their own legislature, 90:10 in Northeast states and Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal and Uttarakhand and 100% Central funding for UTs without legislature.

➤ Nodal Agency:

- The National Health Authority (NHA) has been constituted as an autonomous entity under the Society Registration Act, 1860 for effective implementation of PM-JAY in alliance with state governments.
- The **State Health Agency (SHA)** is the apex body of the State Government responsible for the implementation of AB PM-JAY in the State.

National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013

- It was notified on **10th September, 2013**.
- Its objective is to **provide for food and nutritional security** in the human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- It **covers 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population** for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
- Overall, NFSA caters to 67% of the total population.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Priority Households to be covered under TPDS, according to guidelines by the State government.
 - Households covered under existing **Antyodaya Anna Yojana**.
- **Provisions:**
 - 5 Kgs of foodgrains per person per month at Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains.
 - The existing AAY household will continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month.
 - Meal and maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000 to pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and six months after the child birth.

Note:

- Meals for children upto 14 years of age.
- Food security allowance to beneficiaries in case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals.
- Setting up of grievance redressal mechanisms at the district and state level.

New Vande Bharat Express in Bihar

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister **unveiled multiple railway projects** in the state along with two new **Vande Bharat Express trains**.

Key Points

- These were among the projects worth Rs 85,000 crore unveiled by the PM through video conference from Ahmedabad.
- The two new Vande Bharat Express trains will be operated on the **Patna-Gomti Nagar and Patna-New Jalpaiguri routes**.
 - The Patna-Gomti Nagar Vande Bharat will have halts at the pilgrim towns of **Varanasi and Ayodhya Dham**, while a third Vande Bharat, which was also flagged off, will stop at **Gaya** on the way to Varanasi from Ranchi.
- The PM laid the foundation stone of a washing pit cum coaching complex at Narkatiaganj.
- He inaugurated:
 - The Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor's New Chiraila Pauthu-New Son Nagar-New Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (DDU) section.
 - **Gati Shakti** cargo terminals, Jan Aushadhi drug stores at Patna and Darbhanga, goods sheds and washing pit lines at Arrah and Muzaffarpur.
 - **'One Station One Product'** outlets which would promote local small farmers and artisans.

Smart Prepaid Meter Installed in Bihar

Why in News?

Recently, the **North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited (NBPDC)** reached the milestones of

the fastest 10 lakh **Smart Prepaid Meter (SPM)** installation in Muzaffarpur and Motihari Circles.

Key Points

- The 10 lakh SPMs in both Muzaffarpur and Motihari Circles were installed in a **record 14 months**.
- The NBPDC also accomplished the feat of **saturation of the first rural division** of Muzaffarpur Urban-2 Division.
 - This means that 100% of households in the Muzaffarpur Urban-2 Division are covered by the SPM.

Prepaid Smart Meters

- These are the **new generation of energy meters** that are used to **record electricity consumption in real time**.
- As they are **connected to the internet, users and utilities** can easily **track and monitor electricity usage and get accurate bills**.
- Their remote meter reading capabilities completely **eliminate the need for manual inspection**, making them highly efficient and convenient.

Bihar's Greenhouse Gas Emission to Rise Five Times by 2070

Why in News?

According to the **'Climate Resilient and Low-Carbon Development Pathway'** report, Bihar's greenhouse gas emission is projected to increase 5.2 times by 2070, when India targets to achieve **net zero emission**.

Key Points

- The findings were in the report **drafted by the Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB)** in association with the **United Nations Environment Programme**.
 - The government of Bihar had initiated the process to prepare the strategy for a climate resilient and low-carbon development pathway in February 2021.
- **The draft report states that:**
 - Bihar's contribution to national emissions is about 3.3% of India's greenhouse gas emissions in 2018, lower than its share of national population (8.8%), even as they had doubled between 2005 and 2013.

Note:



- The **energy sector was the highest emitter of greenhouse gases** with a contribution of 69% to the total in 2018, followed by agriculture, forest and other land use at 24%, waste management with 5% and industrial processing and product use at 2%.
- If present trend continues, the state's emissions are projected to increase 5.2 times between 2020 and 2070.
- The **energy sector will continue to be the highest emitter**, projected to contribute **93% of the total emissions**. Followed by construction (6%), transport (5%) and industries (5%).
- The **dominance of the power sector in emissions** is because of the continued **dependence on coal for electricity generation**.
- Since most emissions are from the power sector, Bihar will need to **avoid opening new thermal power plants after 2030** to be consistent with India's net zero 2070 target.
- Therefore, the state will need to secure long-term clean energy power purchase agreements with renewable energy-rich states.
- In addition, the state will need to consider options like rooftop **solar panels, floating solar, agri-photovoltaics** and other decentralised forms of **renewable energy** proactively.
- At the same time, end-use sectors of industry, transport and real estate will need to be electrified so that emissions from them are reduced through use of renewable energy.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- It is a leading global environmental authority established on **5th June 1972**.
- It sets the global environmental agenda, **promotes sustainable development** within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for **global environment protection**.

Net Zero Emission

- It is referred to as **carbon neutrality**, which does not mean that a country would bring down its emissions to zero.
- It is a **state in which a country's emissions are compensated by the absorption and removal of greenhouse gases** from the atmosphere.

- More than 70 countries have promised to become Net Zero by the middle of the century i.e., by 2050.
- India has promised to cut its emissions to net zero by 2070 at the **conference of parties-26 (COP) summit**.

Begusarai: World's Most Polluted Metropolitan

Why in News?

As per the **World Air Quality Report 2023** released by the **Swiss organization IQAir**, Bihar's Begusarai has emerged as the world's most polluted metropolitan area.

Key Points


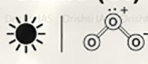


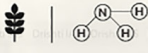

- The report underscores **India's ranking as the third-highest in air pollution** levels among 134 countries, following Bangladesh and Pakistan.
 - This marks a shift from 2022 when India stood at eighth place globally in terms of air pollution.
- Begusarai, with an average **PM2.5 concentration of 118.9 micrograms per cubic meter**, has surpassed all other metropolitan areas.
- **Delhi** has once again been designated as the capital city with the poorest air quality. Its PM2.5 levels have also worsened from **89.1 to 92.7 micrograms per cubic meter in 2023**.
 - The capital has retained the title of the **most polluted capital city for the fourth consecutive year since 2018**.
- **The report highlights that:**
 - Approximately 1.36 billion people are exposed to PM2.5 levels exceeding the **World Health Organization (WHO)** guideline of 5 micrograms per cubic meter.
 - 1.33 billion individuals, equivalent to 96% of the Indian population, are grappling with PM2.5 levels surpassing the **WHO standard** by seven times.
- The data for this report was compiled from a **comprehensive network of air quality monitoring stations and sensors worldwide**, involving various institutions, organizations, and citizen scientists.
 - The 2023 report has expanded its coverage to encompass **7,812 locations in 134 countries**, compared to 7,323 locations in 131 countries in 2022.

Note:


➤ **According to the report:**

- Air pollution remains a **critical global issue**, contributing to approximately one in nine deaths worldwide.
- The WHO estimates that **air pollution leads to seven million premature deaths annually**, impacting individuals with various health conditions such as **asthma, cancer, stroke, and lung disease**.
- Exposure to high levels of PM2.5 pollution can also affect children's cognitive development, mental health, and exacerbate existing illnesses like **diabetes**.

Air Pollutants

<p style="text-align: center;">Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>It comes from the consumption of fossil fuels (oil, coal and natural gas). Reacts with water to form acid rain.</p> <p>Impact: Causes respiratory problems.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ozone (O₃)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Secondary pollutant formed from other pollutants (NO_x and VOC) under the action of the sun.</p> <p>Impact: Irritation of the eye and respiratory mucous membranes, asthma attacks.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Emissions from road transport, industry and energy production sectors. Contributes to Ozone and PM formation.</p> <p>Impact: Chronic lung disease.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Carbon Monoxide (CO)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>It is a product of the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing compounds.</p> <p>Impact: Fatigue, confusion, and dizziness due to inadequate oxygen delivery to the brain.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ammonia (NH₃)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Produced by the metabolism of amino acids and other compounds which contain nitrogen.</p> <p>Impact: Immediate burning of the eyes, nose, throat and respiratory tract and can result in blindness, lung damage.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lead (Pb)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Released as a waste product from extraction of metals such as silver, platinum, and iron from their respective ores.</p> <p>Impact: Anemia, weakness, and kidney and brain damage.</p>

Particulate Matter (PM)




PM10: Inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller.



PM2.5: Fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.

Source: Emitted from construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, fires.

Impact: Irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function.

Note: These major air pollutants are included in the Air quality index for which short-term National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed.



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Note:

NABARD Projects Credit Potential for Bihar

Why in News?

The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has projected Rs 2,43,093 crore credit potential for Bihar in 2024-25.

Key Points

- The estimate has been made taking into account the **Reserve Bank of India's** priority sector-based guidelines, Central and state government policies and policies for **sustainable agriculture** and **rural development**.
- The **State Focus Paper 2024-25 for Bihar**, a compilation of the assessed credit flow for all 38 districts of the state was unveiled by the Development Commissioner at NABARD's credit seminar.
 - The total credit flow under the priority sector for the year 2024-25 is estimated at Rs 2,43,093 crore.
- There is a need for **credit intensification through specific planning** for each of the sub-sectors under agriculture in Bihar.
 - Credit plays an important role in **economic development and employment generation** in the state.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- It is a development bank focussing primarily on the rural sector of the country. It is the apex banking institution to provide finance for Agriculture and rural development.
- Its headquarter is located in Mumbai, the country's financial capital.
- It is responsible for the development of the small industries, cottage industries, and any other such village or rural projects.
- It is a **statutory body** established in 1982 under the Parliamentary act-**National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981**.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- It was established on **April 1, 1935** in accordance with the provisions of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

- The Central Office of the Reserve Bank was initially established in Calcutta but was **permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937**. The Central Office is where the Governor sits and where policies are formulated.
- Though **originally privately owned**, since nationalization in 1949, the Reserve Bank is fully owned by the Government of India.

ONGC to Drill Well in Bihar

Why in News?

Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) plans to drill a well in Bihar to look for oil and gas.

- A **commercial discovery** will put the state on India's oil map and also open up for exploration the entire **Ganga basin** stretching from **Bihar to Uttar Pradesh and Punjab**.

Key Points

- The company has **acquired 3D seismic data for 300 sq. km** for its block in **Samastipur** and is set to drill two exploratory wells.
 - The first drilling will be carried out in 2024.
 - Besides this, the oil and gas producer also plans to drill an exploratory well in another block in the **Ganga basin in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh**.
- Data from the first well's drilling will help guide the company's plans for the rest of the exploration block, including drilling of the second well.
 - Both blocks in Samastipur and Ballia were obtained in the fourth **Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP)** round a few years ago.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

- It is a **Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** of the Government of India.
- It was **set up in 1995** and is under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.
- It is the largest crude oil and natural gas company in India, **contributing around 70% to Indian domestic production**.

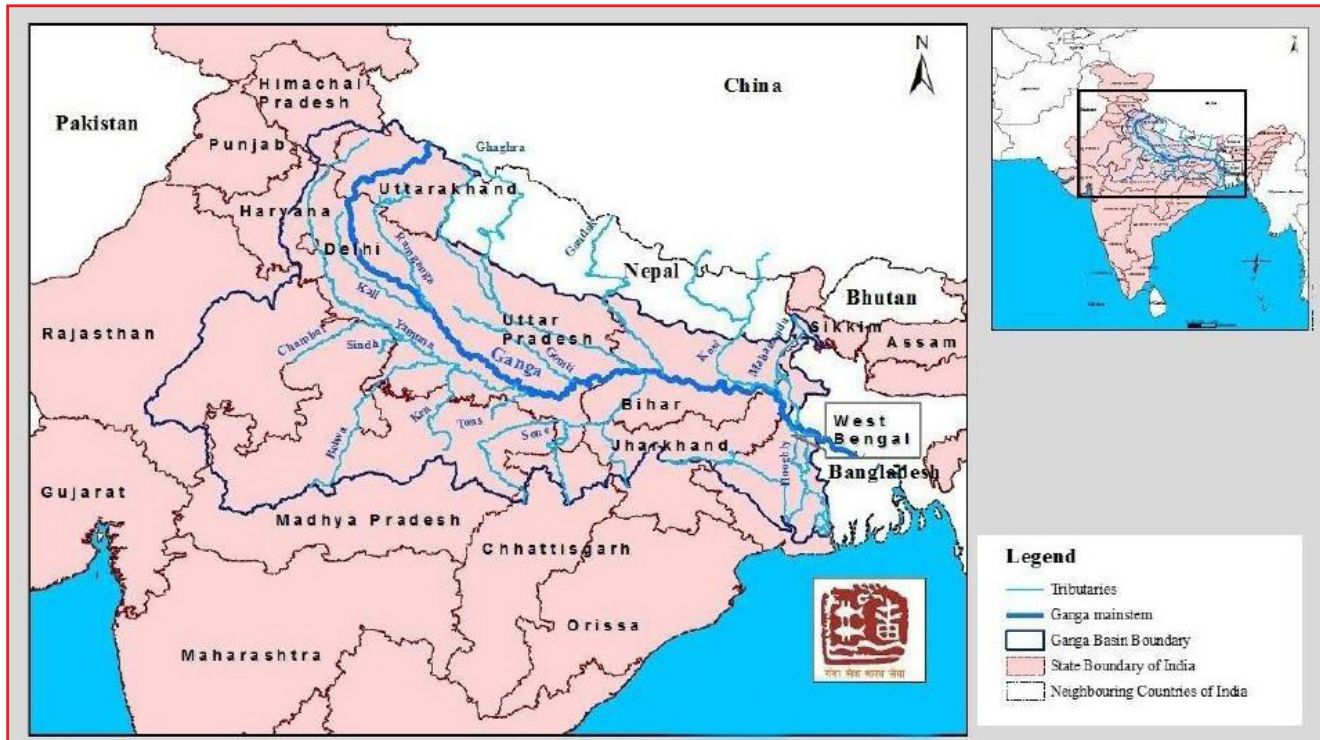
Ganga Basin

- The headwaters of the Ganga called the '**Bhagirathi**' are fed by the **Gangotri Glacier** and joined by the Alaknanda at Devprayag in Uttarakhand.

Note:

➤ At Haridwar, **Ganga emerges from the mountains** to the plains.

➤ The Ganga is joined by many tributaries from the Himalayas, a few of them being major rivers such as the Yamuna, the Ghaghara, the Gandak, and the Kosi.



Bihar Diwas 2024

Why in News?

Bihar day or Bihar diwas is **marked on 22nd March every year**. It is a public holiday across the state as offices, organisations, banks, and educational institutions under the central and state government remain shut.

Key Points

- The Bihar Day 2024 marks the **fulfilment of 111 years since the state was founded**, making it a critical achievement for individuals of Bihar to consider their history and celebrate their identity.
 - The Bihar government has coordinated a line of multicultural events and programs to celebrate the entire day.
- The celebration was held with the intention of restoring the people's pride in the state of Bihar.
- Bihar Diwas marks the development of the state from the Bengal presidency. The state was shaped on **22nd March, 1912**, when the British government partitioned the Bengal Province.
 - The celebration of Bihar Diwas is marked by gaiety and enthusiasm. This is due to the fact that it denotes the foundation of their way of life as a particular state with a **unique cultural legacy**.
 - The day also gives the people of Bihar a chance to show off their **history, culture, traditions, and heritage**.
- Apart from India, it is celebrated in nations including the United States, Canada, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Britain (Scotland), Australia, Trinidad and Tobago and Mauritius.

Note:



Prominent Indian-Americans Honoured on 'Bihar Diwas' in New York

Why in News?

Recently, four prominent members of the Indian-American diaspora hailing from Bihar were honoured here on the occasion of 'Bihar Diwas' for their outstanding achievements and contributions.

Key Points

- Founder and CEO of Holtec International Dr Kris Singh, Wipro's Chief Operating Officer Amit Choudhary, founder of PRAN Medical Group Dr Dinesh Ranjan, and Director at Nutrivet Farmcare Abhinave Atul were honoured.
- They were honoured with the 'Bihar Vishwa Gaurav Samman' at a special event hosted by the Consulate General of India in New York in partnership with the Bihar Foundation USA, East Coast Chapter and the Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANA).

The event included messages from Bihar Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar as well as from Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and was attended by several members of the diaspora hailing from Bihar and the region.

- It highlighted the state's development, tourism, cultural heritage, the famed **Madhubani art** form and popular culinary delights.

Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANA)

- It was established in 1976 to bring the people from Bihar to a common platform and facilitate a social and cultural binding between the people of Bihar and Jharkhand in the tri-state area (New York, New Jersey and Connecticut) in the USA.

The Central Government Cancels the Auction of 13 Crucial Mineral Blocks

Why in News?

Recently, the Centre has cancelled auction for 13 of 20 blocks on offer in the first round of **critical mineral** bids following poor response from the bidders.

Note:

RARE EARTH ELEMENTS

Rare Earth Elements are a family of 17 elements in the periodic table - 15 Lanthanide group elements, along with Yttrium and Scandium.

+ PROPERTIES

- Unique magnetic, luminescent, and electrochemical properties
- High - density, melting point, conductivity and thermal conductance
- Share a trivalent charge (+3)

+ TYPE - LIGHT AND HEAVY REES

Element	Symbol	Atomic Number	Element	Symbol	Atomic Number
<i>Light REES</i>			<i>Heavy REES</i>		
Lanthanum	La	57	Terbium	Tb	65
Cerium	Ce	58	Dysprosium	Dy	66
Praseodymium	Pr	59	Holmium	Ho	67
Neodymium	Nd	60	Erbium	Er	68
Samarium	Sm	62	Thulium	Tm	69
Europium	Eu	63	Ytterbium	Yb	70
Gadolinium	Gd	64	Lutetium	Lu	71
			Yttrium	Y	39

+ PRINCIPAL SOURCE

- Carbonatites:** Host world's largest REE deposits
- Alkaline Igneous Systems:** Comprise a group of uncommon igneous rock types (Deficient in silica, relative to sodium, potassium, and calcium)
- Ion-Absorption Clay Deposits:** Southern China (World's primary source of heavy REEs.)
- Monazite-Xenotime-Bearing Placer Deposits:** Principal source of rare earths and thorium in India



+ APPLICATIONS

- In lights, screens, and glass
- As catalysts
- In magnets, electronics and steel alloys
- In defence and energy sectors

+ ISSUES

- Sufficiently available but extraction/ utilisation unviable economically
- Heavy REEs not available in extractable quantities

+ INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTION

- China's monopoly (accounts for 60% of total)

World Reserves of Rare Earths (By Principal Countries)
(In '000 tonnes of REO equivalent content)

Country	Reserves
World: Total (rounded off)	120000
Australia	3300
Brazil	22000
Myanmar	NA
Burundi	NA
Canada	830
China	44000
Greenland	1500
India	6900
Madagascar	NA
Russia	12000
South Africa	790
Tanzania	890
Thailand	NA
USA	1400
Vietnam	22000
Other countries	310

Key Points

- These **13 crucial mineral blocks** which received poor response hold glauconite, nickel, chromium and platinum group elements (PGE), potash, etc. They are spread across Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
 - The PGEs—platinum, palladium, rhodium,

ruthenium, iridium, and osmium—are metals that have similar physical and chemical properties and tend to occur together in nature.

- Earlier, in **June 2023**, the government released a **list of 30 minerals considered critical for the country**. These include **antimony, beryllium, bismuth, cobalt, copper, gallium, germanium, graphite, hafnium, indium,**

Note:

lithium, molybdenum, niobium, nickel, platinum group elements (PGE), phosphorous, and potash.

- **Rare Earth Elements (REE)** like **rhodium, silicon, strontium, tantalum, tellurium, tin, titanium, tungsten, vanadium, zirconium, selenium and cadmium** were also present in this list.

Critical Minerals

- Critical minerals are those minerals that are **essential for economic development and national security**
- The **lack of availability** of these minerals or concentration of extraction or processing in a few

geographical locations may lead to **supply chain vulnerabilities** and even disruption of supplies.

➤ Declaration of Critical Minerals:

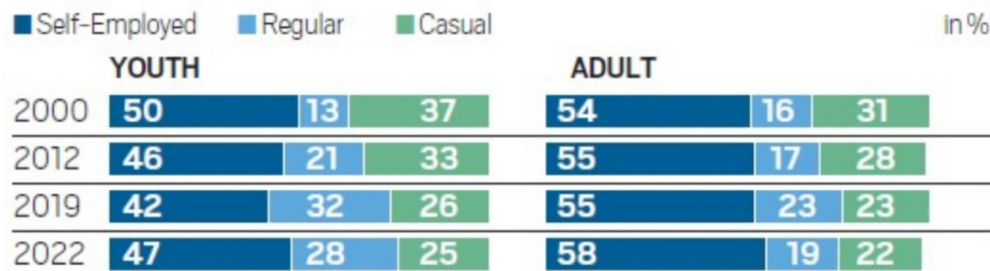
- It is a **dynamic process**, and it can evolve over time as new technologies, market dynamics, and geopolitical considerations emerge.
- **Different countries may have their own unique lists** of critical minerals based on their specific circumstances and priorities.
- **Expert Committee under Ministry of Mines has identified a set of 30 critical minerals for India.**

India Employment Report 2024

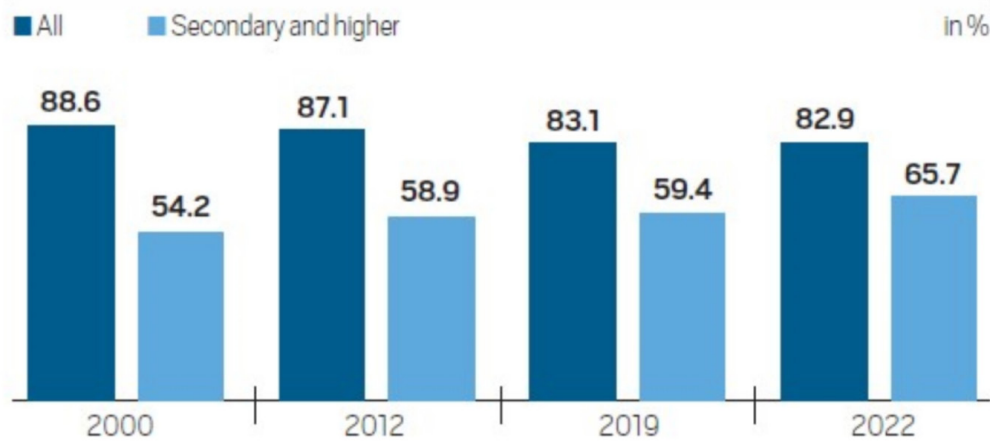
Why in News?

According to the **India Employment Report 2024**, released by the Institute for **Human Development and International Labour Organisation (ILO)** the 'Employment Condition Index' of the states have improved between 2004-05 and 2021-22.

STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT (UPSS) OF YOUTHS AND ADULTS



SHARE OF UNEMPLOYED EDUCATED YOUTHS (SECONDARY OR HIGHER) IN TOTAL UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (UPSS)



Note:

Key Points

- The “Employment Condition Index” has improved between 2004-05 and 2021-22, but some states such as **Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, and UP have remained at the bottom throughout this period.**
 - While some others **Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Uttarakhand, and Gujarat have stayed at the top.**
- The index is based on **seven labour market outcome indicators:**
 - percentage of workers employed in regular formal work;
 - percentage of casual labourers;
 - percentage of self-employed workers below the poverty line;
 - work participation rate;
 - average monthly earnings of casual labourers;
 - unemployment rate of secondary and above-educated youth;
 - youth not in employment and education or training.
- The report has **flagged concerns about poor employment conditions:** the slow transition to non-farm employment has reversed; women largely account for the increase in self-employment and unpaid family work; youth employment is of poorer quality than employment for adults; wages and earnings are stagnant or declining.
- **Employment Quality:** Almost 82% of the workforce is engaged in the informal sector, and nearly 90% is informally employed. Self-employment and unpaid family work has also increased, especially for women.
- **Participation of Women:** The **female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** in India remains among the world’s lowest. Female LFPR declined by 14.4% points (compared to 8.1% points for males) between 2000 and 2019.
 - The trend reversed thereafter, with female LFPR rising by 8.3% points (compared to 1.7% points for male LFPR) between 2019 and 2022.
- **Structural Transformation:** The share of agriculture in total employment fell to around 42% in 2019 from 60% in 2000. This shift was largely absorbed by construction and services, the share of which in total employment increased to 32% in 2019 from 23% in 2000.
- **Youth Employment:** There has been a rise in youth employment, but the quality of work remains a concern, especially for qualified young workers. In 2022, the share of unemployed youths in the total unemployed population was 82.9%.

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