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(CONSOLIDATION)

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Biggest Fiscal Deficit in Bihar

Why in News?

- According to the **CAG** report tabled in the House on the last day of the monsoon session of the Bihar Assembly on June 30, 2022, Bihar recorded a fiscal deficit of Rs 29 thousand 827 crore in the financial year 2020-21.

Key Points

- This report is for the financial year ended March 31, 2021. According to the report, the fiscal deficit of Bihar has increased by Rs 15,103 crore to Rs 29,827 crore as compared to last year. Not only this, the state has suffered a revenue loss of more than Rs 11,325 crore for the first time since 2004-05.
- According to the report, due to the increase in tax, the financial year 2020-21 recorded an increase of Rs 3,936 crore (3.17 percent) in revenue receipts over the previous year. This year, revenue expenditure has increased by Rs 13,476 crore (10.69 percent) mainly on account of increase in committed expenditure.
- According to the report, till March 2021, the Nitish government has not submitted utilization certificates worth Rs 92,687 crore. The CAG in its report has said that the pendency of high quantity of utilization certificates increases the risk of misuse of funds and fraud. Non-adjustment of advance amount can be fraud.
- According to the report, the Bihar government has neither created a guarantee redemption fund as per the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission nor made any rules for determining the limits of guarantees

Increasing Outbreak of Lightning in Bihar

Why in News?

- Recently, the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority informed that lightning is becoming the deadliest among the natural calamities, due to which about 2000 people have lost their lives in the last six years.

Key Points

- Jamui, Bhagalpur, Purnia, Banka, Aurangabad, Gaya, Katihar, Patna, Nawada and Rohtas districts are the most sensitive in terms of thundershowers.

- However, this time, three districts - Patna, Gaya and Aurangabad - have been put on high alert.
- According to the authority, the geography of the state is responsible for thunderstorms and deaths in the state, that is, due to the monsoon climate of Bihar, it is susceptible to heat and moisture, due to which thunderstorms occur in the state with intense thunder and heavy rainfall.
- Awareness programs are being run by the state government to prevent lightning. Along with this, an app called Indravajra has also been launched, which alerts people through alarm tones and messages about 40 minutes before the thunderstorm.

Center Gave Rs. 1152 Crore to Bihar

Why in News?

- On July 4, 2022, Bihar's Panchayati Raj Minister Samrat Chaudhary informed that on the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission, the Center has released a fund of Rs 1152.60 crore for Bihar.

Key Points

- The fund will be used on the basis of the formula decided in the Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad. The aim is to take development to the lower level.
- Based on the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission for the financial year 2022-23, Bihar has received a fund of Rs. 1152.60 crore as the first instalment under the tight grant item from the Government of India. The fund has been given to strengthen 8067 Gram Panchayats, 533 Panchayat Samitis and 38 Zila Parishads in Bihar.
- Samrat Chaudhary said that the sanctioned amount will be withdrawn in the financial year 2022-23, the grant received on the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission will be distributed among the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the ratio of 70:15:15. Based on this formula, Rs 806.82 crore will be allocated to Gram Panchayats, Rs 172.89 crore to Panchayat Samitis and Rs 172.8 crore to Zilla Parishads.
- It is known that 1 week ago, in the light of the recommendation of the Finance Commission, Rs 768.40 crore has been distributed proportionately among the Panchayati Raj Institutions under the

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untied head. In this way, the Government of India has received 1152.60 crores in tide and Rs 768.40 crores in untied items i.e., Bihar has received a total of Rs 1921 crores in the financial year 2022-23.

Mega Skill Center in Bihar

Why in News?

- Recently, the Labor Resource Department of Bihar has prepared a proposal for the establishment of Mega Skill Center in all the districts to connect the youth with employment, to give them employment related training.

Key Points

- Under the Mega Skill Centre, not only will the youth be trained under one roof, but also make them self-reliant by giving them skill development and training. In the skill centre, the youth will be given training in 90 types of trades.
- In the first phase of Mega Skill Center, centres will be opened in Patna, Nalanda and Darbhanga. Every year 2000-2500 children will be trained at these centres.
- This centre will help the unemployed to get employment to a great extent. Through various types of technical training in the skill centre, the youth will be made skilled for earning.
- The Department of Labor is running the following programmes for the youth:
 - Large scale planning fairs and planning camps are being organized in all the districts.
 - In domain skills, youth are given vocational training in trade specific and employment support is provided.
 - Under the Skill Youth Programme, basic computer training, language skills, behavioral skills training are given to the youth.
 - Training for orientation of employment is imparted under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Yuva Karyakram.
 - A high level Centre of Excellence is being set up to enhance the quality of training in ITI institutes.
- Skill centres for 90 types of trade training in the state, Aerospace & Aviation, Agriculture, Textiles, Automotive, Capital Goods, Construction, Electronics & Hardware, Food Processing, Green Jobs, Handicrafts, Health Care, Iron & Steel, Mining, Power, Rubber and Talcum related Courses will be available for employment.
- Under the short-term course, students will be given training for a minimum of 300 hours and a maximum

of 1500 hours. These centres will be operated by private companies.

Bihar Ranked 7th in 'State Ranking Index for NFSA'

Why in News?

- In the first edition of the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' released on July 5, 2022, Bihar is ranked seventh in the entire country. Odisha is at the first position in this index.

Key Points

- Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Textiles and Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal released the first edition of the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA'.
- Among the general category states, Odisha topped the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' with a score of 0.836, while Uttar Pradesh is second with a score of 0.797 and Andhra Pradesh is third with a score of 0.794.
- Among the general category states, Bihar is at the seventh position in the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' with a score of 0.783.
- Among special category states/UTs, Tripura is at the first position with a score of 0.788, followed by Himachal Pradesh with a score of 0.758 and Sikkim third with a score of 0.710.
- Also in the three Union Territories, where Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is cash-driven, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu are at the top spot with a score of 0.802.
- The index seeks to document the status and progress of the implementation of NFSA across the country and various reform initiatives after consultation with the states.
- It highlights the reforms undertaken by the States and Union Territories and creates a cross-learning environment and scale-up reform measures by all the States and Union Territories.
- The current index is largely focused on NFSA distribution and will include future buyouts, PMGKAY distributions.
- The index for ranking of States and UTs is built on three key pillars, which cover end-to-end implementation of NFSA through TPDS. These pillars are- i) NFSA-coverage, targeting and provisions of the Act, ii) delivery platforms, and iii) nutrition initiatives.

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Bihar Ration Card Holders will Get Free Treatment Facility

Why in News?

- On July 8, 2022, Bihar Health Minister Mangal Pandey announced free treatment on the lines of 'Ayushman Bharat Jan-Arogya Yojana' for all ration card holders of the state at a felicitation ceremony for doctors and hospitals who have excelled under the Ayushman Bharat Jan-Arogya Yojana.

Key Points

- On this occasion, 66 doctors and 5 hospitals have also been honored for their outstanding performance under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
- As a result of the free treatment facility on the lines of Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana, 9 crore population of Bihar will be covered for cashless treatment of up to Rs 5 lac per family per annum.
- Minister Mangal Pandey informed that at present 1 crore 9 lac families in the state are listed from the central government as beneficiaries under this scheme, but all the ration card holders within the state are not able to benefit from this scheme.
- There are about 1 crore 80 lac families in the state who are ration card holders. Therefore, the scheme of giving 5 lac per family per year to the remaining 70 lac ration card holder families has been approved by the Bihar cabinet, as a result of which all the card holders of Bihar will be benefitted.
- It is noteworthy that so far 35.38 lac families and 76.25 lac persons have been issued Ayushman cards in the state. Under this scheme, 606 government and 379 non-government hospitals (total 985 hospitals) have been listed in the state. So far, 4 lac 11 thousand families have been given health benefits under this scheme with an amount of more than 429 crores.

Food Processing Institute in Bihar

Why in News?

- Recently, Union Food Processing Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras during a meeting with Bihar Industries Minister Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain talked about opening

of a food processing institute **NIFTEM (National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management)** in Bihar.

Key Points

- Various aspects of setting up of Agro Processing Clusters in Bihar under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) were discussed in a meeting between Union Food Processing Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras and Bihar Industries Minister Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain in Delhi.
- During this it was also decided that soon a high-level meeting would be held in Patna between the Union Ministry of Food Processing and Industries Department, Government of Bihar, as well as a Food Processing Conclave in the presence of big industrialists of this sector in Patna.
- Bihar's Industries Minister Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain said that the farmers of Bihar can benefit greatly from the Agro Processing Clusters scheme of the Union Food Processing Ministry under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana. Besides, setting up of food processing units will generate employment opportunities on a large scale.
- 10 acres of land would be required for setting up agro processing clusters and the target would be to set up at least five food processing units costing Rs 25 crore or more.
- According to the plan, in each agro processing cluster, the state and the center will jointly provide all the facilities like road, water, electricity, drainage, warehouse, cold storage, tetra pack, sorting, grading.

Elevated Corridor Road of Bihar Got Green Signal

Why in News?

- On July 15, 2022, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) tendered for the construction of an elevated corridor from Danapur Railway Station to ESI Medical College, Bihta. Under this project, a 21 km long elevated corridor is to be constructed.

Key Points

- A link road has also been provided for Bihta Airport under Danapur-Bihta elevated corridor. In addition,

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bypasses are to be constructed at Neuraganj, Panal, Kanhauli and Bishanpura.

- The construction of the biggest elevated corridor of Bihar will be done at a cost of Rs 3737.51 crore. The entire length of the elevated road is 21 km. The 4 km road up to Koilwar bridge is also a part of this project.
- Traffic using this elevated corridor from Patna will get its way to Bihta airport through a tunnel. A ramp will be constructed for the elevated corridor from Saguna bend. An underpass and four bridges will be constructed between Bihta and Koilwar.
- It is noteworthy that the project of elevated corridor is part of the Prime Minister's Package 2015 announced for Bihar. For this, the state government has acquired land from its own amount at a cost of Rs 456 crore. In exchange for the railway land located at Danapur, the state government will provide land in the southern part of Hardinge Park.

land of Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA). This will boost industrial development in Bihar and increase investment.

Key Points

- Additional Chief Secretary of Bihar Cabinet Department S. Siddhartha said after the meeting that BIADA gives land to entrepreneurs on lease for 90 years to set up industries. At present, the rate of land is on the basis of MVR.
- Now the state government will give a discount of 20 to 80 percent on land lease in 54 industrial areas of Bihar. The government's move will enable entrepreneurs to get land at a cheaper rate to set up industries. This will promote industrialization in the state and there will be economic development with the inflow of investment.
- At present, 74 industrial zones of BIADA are functioning in the State. 2900 acres of land of closed sugar mills has been transferred to BIADA for development as an industrial area.
- According to the information, the districts where Bida's land MVR has been given 80 percent discount are Gopalganj's Hathua Phase I and II, Siwan's New Siwan Phase I and II, Aurangabad, Rohtas's Bikramganj area, Buxar's Dumraon, Gaya. Guraru of the district, Jamalpur and Munger area of Munger district, Ramnagar of West Champaran, Jhanjharpur of Madhubani, Udakishunganj and Murliganj of Madhepura, Saharsa area of Saharsa district and Biharsharif area of Nalanda district are included.
- Similarly, the districts where the MVR of BIADA land has been relaxed by up to 60 percent include Bettiah in West Champaran, Dehri in Rohtas, Bihiya in Bhojpur, Jehanabad, Bihta, Siwan, Sakri in Madhubani district, Sitamarhi, Dharampur in Darbhanga, Katihar and Khagra area of Kishanganj.
- Apart from this, up to 40 percent discount will be available in Burari of Bhagalpur, Banmankhi of Purnia, Purnia City, Donar and Bela of Darbhanga, Raxaul of East Champaran, Hajipur of Vaishali, Barun and Aurangabad, Buxar and Lakhisarai.
- Maranga of Purnia, Forbesganj of Araria, Lohat Phase I, 2 and 3 of Madhubani, Sugauli, Muzaffarpur and Korra of East Champaran, Goraul Phase 1 and 2 of Vaishali, Hajipur, Fatuha of Patna District, Patliputra, Nawanagar of Buxar, of Nawada Warsliganj, Sitakund in Munger district and Khagaria Industrial Center in Khagaria district will get 20 percent discount.

Climate Change Learning Lab

Why in News?

- On July 17, 2022, Bihar Environment and Climate Change Minister Neeraj Kumar Singh inaugurated the Climate Change Learning Lab at Patna Zoo to study the climate change taking place in Bihar.

Key Points

- This lab has been established by GIZ, an organization of the European Union and Germany on behalf of the Bihar State Pollution Control Council. Such a lab has been established for the first time in Bihar.
- The lab will make the general public, especially school children aware, on various aspects of climate change.
- Principal Secretary Arvind Kumar Chaudhary said that it is the endeavour of the state government to achieve the target of zero carbon emission in the state by the year 2040.

Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority

Why in News?

- In a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on July 19, 2022 it was decided to give a discount of 20 to 80 percent on the lease amount of

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Bihar Government will Give Diesel Subsidy to Farmers

Why in News?

- On July 19, 2022, the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar approved the proposal of the state government to give diesel subsidy to the farmers of the state.

Key Points

- In the financial year 2022-23, a total of Rs.29.95 crore has been sanctioned in advance from Bihar State Contingency Fund. The farmers will get a grant of Rs.60 per litre of diesel.
- One acre consumes 10 litres of diesel for irrigating kharif crops. On this basis, farmers will be paid at the rate of Rs.600 per acre. The grant amount will be limited to a maximum of five acres.
- 1200 per acre for saving the birch and two irrigations of Jute and a maximum of Rs.1800 per acre for a maximum of 3 irrigations for a field for Paddy, Maize, Kharif crops for Pulses, Oilseeds, Seasonal Vegetables, Medicinal, Aromatic plants.

India Innovation Index, 2021

Why In News?

- Bihar has been ranked 15th among 17 major states in the India Innovation Index-2021 released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Beri on July 21, 2022.

Key points

- In Niti Ayog's 3rd India Innovation Index, states and union territories were classified into the category of **17 major states, 10 north-eastern and hilly states and 9 union territories and city-states** for effective comparison of their performance.
- In the category of 17 major states, Karnataka is at the top spot with 18.01 points, while Telangana (17.66 points) is second and Haryana (16.35 points) is third.
- In the category of major states, **Uttar Pradesh is at 7th position** with 14.22 points, Odisha is 16th with 11.42 points and Chhattisgarh is 17th (last) with 10.97 points.

- **Manipur topped the northeastern and hill states category** with 19.37 points. Uttarakhand (17.67 points) is at the second spot in this category, while Nagaland (11.00 points) is at the bottom. On the other hand, in the Union Territories and city-states category, Chandigarh (27.88 points) has got the top position, while Ladakh (5.91 points) has got the last position.
- It may be mentioned that the India Innovation Index prepared by NITI Aayog and the Institute of Competitiveness is a medium for evaluation and development of the country's innovation ecosystem. It puts states and Union Territories in order to showcase their innovation, so that there is healthy competition between them.
- This Innovation Index has been prepared on the **lines of the Global Innovation Index**. In previous versions, the analysis was done on the basis of 36 indicators, but this time 66 indicators were used. The first and second innovation indices were released in October 2019 and January 2021 respectively.

New railway Junction will be built in Bhojpur

Why In News?

- Recently, the North Eastern Railway has taken 61 km. Preliminary survey of the long Ara-Ballia train route has been completed. Also, a proposal has been sent to make Jagjivan Halt located near Ara junction a new junction.

Key Points

- This information was given by Lok Sabha MP from Ballia Virendra Singh. He said that 61 km. After the completion of the preliminary survey of the long Ara-Ballia train route, the Railway Board has given permission to prepare a DPR (Detailed Project Report) for this new railway line.
- Along with this, a proposal has been sent to develop Jagjivan Halt near Ara Junction in Bhojpur district of Bihar as a railway junction.
- The total length of the proposed Ara-Ballia rail line project by the North Eastern Railway is 61.693 km. Will be There will be a total of 10 halts and stations in this route.
- The new railway line will cross the Ganges near Nainijor in Buxar district via Masad, Dhamar, Umraoganj and

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Dhamwal in Bhojpur district and join Chhapra-Varanasi rail line near Ballia via Kathi Kripalpur Haldi, Sohilpur in Uttar Pradesh. A new rail bridge will also be built on the river Ganga on this route.

- With the construction of the new railway line, the distance between Ara in Bihar and Ballia town of Uttar Pradesh is 36 km. It will be reduced and the people of Bhojpur district will be able to get a direct train to Ballia. This will also reduce their travel expenses.

Historical Chamunda Place of Muzaffarpur as a Tourist Destination

Why In News?

- Recently, The Managing Director of Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation, Kanwal Tanuj has sent a letter to The DM of Muzaffarpur district Pranav Kumar to develop the Chamunda Temple at Katra as a tourist destination by the Department.

Key Points

- Managing Director Kanwal Tanuj said that the land will be transferred to the tourism department for construction of tourist structures. It has been asked to provide information about encroachments, ownership, etc., besides transfer of land.
- It is known that a total of 70 pilgrimage centers of the country have been included in the plan to develop religious and pilgrimage places of historical importance in the form of tourist places.
- These include Chamunda temple among the four temples of Bihar. These are to be developed under the Central Government's Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Enhancement Drive (PRASAD) scheme.
- It is noteworthy that in order to increase tourism, the Central Government has started the Prasad scheme. Apart from creating employment, this will also lead to economic development of the region.
- It is to be noted that Chamunda place is just 100 yards away from Katra block headquarter. This area spread over 80 acres of land is called Katra Garh. On a mound in its northwestern part is a grand temple

of Maa Chamunda. The form of the goddess is pind. The temple is looked after by a committee appointed by the Board of Trustees.

Public transport vehicles in Bihar to have location tracking devices

Why in news?

- On July 28, 2022, the Transport Department of Bihar issued an order to install **Vehicle Location Tracking Devices (VLTDS)** and emergency buttons in public transport vehicles.

Key Point

- The Transport Department of Bihar has made it mandatory following a directive from the **Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**. Along with this, instructions have also been issued to install panic buttons in school buses for the safety of school students.
- As per the order issued by the Transport Department, it has become mandatory to install VLTDS and emergency buttons in all public transport trains registered before January, 2019.
- By August, it will also be made mandatory for all private buses to have VLTDS and emergency buttons.
- Three agencies have been selected for this equipment to be installed in the trains for the safety of women.
- It may be recalled that the transport department had inaugurated the Command and Control Centre a few months ago, from where all the trains of public transport (bus, cab, taxi) will be monitored.
- If women or girls travelling in public vehicles press the emergency button in view of the danger, an alarm will sound in the control and command center, after which the police will immediately reach for help.
- Apart from this, the Command and Control Centre will also receive alerts if emergency alerts, over speeds and equipment is tampered with or broken. With the help of this, the command and control center will also get real-time information of the location of the vehicle. Vehicle owners can also find out the real-time status of their vehicles with the help of this software.



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Key Points

Details

Summary

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Summary