



Bihar to Turn Liquor Bottles into Bangles

For Prelims: Rural Livelihoods Promotion Programme, JEEViKA, Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act, 2016.

For mains: Bihar's Liquor Prohibition and Related Issues.

Why in News?

Bihar is preparing to make glass bangles out of **seized liquor bottles**, through its Rural Livelihoods Promotion Programme, known as JEEViKA.

- These bottles will be given to JEEViKA workers who have been trained in bangle-making. The programme will set up a factory for this.
- Funded by the World Bank, JEEViKA is a **rural social and economic empowerment programme** that comes under Bihar's rural development department.

What is the Economic Viability of the Move?

- Some are apprehensive about the **economic viability of the government's new "innovative" idea** of making glass bangles out of seized liquor bottles.
- It may sound like an innovative idea but **in making glass bangles other materials too are used like limestone and soda**.
- There are several **small and big established factories in places like Faizabad, Mumbai and Hyderabad which constitute about 80% of glass bangle-making products**.
- The seized illegal liquor bottles **will not be enough to sustain a glass bangle-making factory's economic viability**.

What are Bihar's Liquor Prohibition and Related Issues?

- **About:**
 - Introduced on 5 April 2016, the **Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act, 2016**, imposed a total ban on alcohol in the state.
 - In March 2022, the Bihar assembly passed a Bill amending the prohibition Act.
 - Called the Bihar Prohibition and Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2022, the law says **people caught consuming liquor will now have to pay a fine** before a magistrate and won't be sent to jail.
 - The amendment is still awaiting implementation after the Patna High Court voiced its reservations about judicial power being vested in officials designated as special executive magistrates in districts and subdivisions.
- **Issues:**
 - As a result, the old system of arrest continues — data from the excise department shows that in August 2022 alone, **30,000 persons were arrested for violating liquor laws**.
 - The liquor prohibition policy has been the subject of many controversies — chief among them is the allegation that the **law has choked up the state's judicial processes**.
 - Liquor law violations have led to overcrowding of jails in Bihar. There are around **1.5 lakh**

people in Bihar jails for the violations.

- Most of them belong to the lower and downtrodden classes of society who can't bribe their way out of prison.

[Source: TH](#)

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