

Bihar Current Affairs 2019

August 2019

1. Centre approves a project to link Kosi, Mechi Rivers

- The Centre has approved a project worth Rs 4,900-crore Kosi-Mechi river interlinking project, providing a major lease of life to Bihar's Seemanchal region.
- It is the country's second major river interlinking project after Ken-Betwa of Madhya Pradesh.
- Kosi is also known as "Sorrow of Bihar."
- It will not only relieve large swathes of north Bihar from the menace of recurring floods but also provide irrigation for a whopping over 2.14 lakh hectares of command areas spread across the districts of Araria, Kishanganj, Purnia and Katihar in north Bihar.
- The Kosi-Mechi interlinking project is a green project. Its environmental approval note clearly states that 'the project involves no displacement of population and there is no acquisition of any forest land.

Mechi River

- Mechi is an important tributary of Mahananda River.
- Its basin, however, remains mostly deficient in providing adequate water for irrigation.
- Channelling Kosi water into the Mahananda will optimize redistribution of the surplus waters which will take irrigation potential in the region into a different league.

2. Gogabeel is Bihar's first community reserve

- Gogabeel, an ox-bow lake in Bihar's Katihar district, has been declared as the state's first 'Community Reserve'.
- The water body was notified as a 57-hectare Community Reserve and a 30-hectare 'Conservation Reserve' on August 2, 2019.
- Gogabeel is formed from the flow of the rivers Mahananda and Kankhar in the north and the Ganga in the south and east.
- It is the fifteenth Protected Area (PA) in Bihar.
- It also recommended the site as having the potential to be declared as a Ramsar Site of India.
- More than 90 bird species have been recorded from this site, of which, about 30 are migratory.
- Among the threatened species, the Lesser Adjutant Stork is listed as 'Vulnerable' by the IUCN while the Black Necked Stork, White Ibis and White -eyed Pochard are 'Near Threatened'

3. Veteran Congress leader and three-time Bihar Chief Minister "**Dr Jagannath Mishra**" passed away.

4. Manipur has topped the ranking in Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country.

Note: Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar are at the bottom positions in the report card. National capital Delhi is also among the worst-performing States

5. Madhubani painting and Sujni artist Karpuri Devi passed away in the Madhubani district of Bihar



- The National Award recipient contributed towards setting up of the Mithila Museum which is located in Tokamachi hills in Japan's Niigata region.

6. Bihar animal husbandry and Fishery resources department has bagged 'SKOCH Award 2019' for registering excellence in the sector.

The department created support system over the last two years that helped increase the production of milk (19.40%), meat (18.22%), egg (60.06%) and fish (18.47%) in the state.

7. Bihar Education Project Council launches state's first career portal Bihar Education Project Council (BEPC), with support of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), launched 'Career Guidance Portal for providing bunch of options related to career, college, entrance exam and scholarship information to secondary and higher secondary students of Bihar.

8. Bihar government is ready to roll out various water conservation methods, including 'Jal Chaupal' in every village to spread awareness about rain water harvesting and misuse of water.

Bihar government is committed to provide tap water to every household by 2020.

9. Bihar will be the first state in the country to constitute an all-party body to monitor issues related to environment protection, water conservation and climate change. The state government would soon form an all-party body to monitor the proposed "Jal, Jivan aur Hariyali Abhiyan", a mega campaign to make people aware about the importance of environment protection and effects of climate change.

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