

# Bihar Specific Current affairs June 2022



## Chief Minister Divyangjan Empowerment Scheme (Sambal)

### Why In News ?

- On June 21, 2022, total 13 agendas were decided in the meeting of the Bihar Council of Ministers .

### Key Points : -

- Bihar Government has approved an Integrated Empowerment Scheme for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) .
- Under the Social Welfare Department, in the financial year 2022-23, the provision of distribution of battery operated tri-cycles to the Locomotor Divyangjans was included through the 'Sambal' scheme, which is operated under the Chief Minister's Divyangjan Empowerment Chhatra Yojana .
- Approval has been given to make available battery operated tri-cycles from ALIMCO to about 10,000 locomotor disabled persons by changing the eligibility of persons with disabilities .
- For the purpose of Sambal Yojana, the state government has approved an expenditure of Rs.4200 lakh (forty two crore) for the beneficiaries .
- Mukhyamantri Viklang Sashaktikaran Yojana (SAMBAL) implements all the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 .
- At present, all the state schemes for the differently-abled, such as: - Chief Minister's Scholarship Scheme, Survey and Certification Action Plan, Mukhyamantri Samarth Yojana, Chief Minister Disabled Loan Scheme, and Workshop for the Divyang etc. have all been merged together and protect the rights of the disabled. And to promote them has been brought under Mukhyamantri Viklang Sashaktikaran Yojana (Sambal).

### Eligibility :-

- Under this scheme, such beneficiary will be included whose disability is 60 percent or more (earlier it was only 40 percent) .
- The age limit of the beneficiaries has been fixed at 18 years or above.
- The annual income of eligible beneficiaries should be maximum 2 lakh rupees and their residence should be at least three kilometers more than their college, university, hostel or place of employment .
- The eligible person should be a native of Bihar state .



- The beneficiary disabled person is not serving in any government post .
- The beneficiary is not already taking benefits under any welfare scheme .
- The handicapped applicant should have a disability certificate .

Major components of the scheme :-

- Educational Rehabilitation.
- economic rehabilitation and
- social rehabilitation.

## Silt Management Policy

Why in News ?

- Minister for Water Resources and Information and Public Relations, Government of Bihar, Shri Sanjay Kumar Jha, in the National Workshop and Ministerial Conference on “Dam Safety Act, 2021” for Dam Safety Governance in India , Which was organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 in New Delhi . Participated and apprised the Center about the achievements and needs of Bihar in the field of water management .
- Most of the big dams located in Bihar are more than 30 years old and silt has accumulated in them over time. Due to the accumulation of silt, the total water harvesting capacity of the dam has reduced significantly.

Key points :-

- The state government is seeking technical and financial support from the Center for the restoration of the water harvesting capacity of the dam .
- Presently there are about 27 big dams and 5 major barrages in Bihar. All these dams/barges are inspected regularly by the members of Dam Safety Cell.
- The draft National Silt Management Policy, 2017 was sent to the states in December 2021 by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India for the management of silt accumulated in rivers, reservoirs, lakes etc .
- In this context, the Water Resources Department of the Government of Bihar has made its destination available to the Central Government. That is why the



state wants that the National Silt Management Policy should be finalized by the Center at the earliest .

- In the year 2005, the Janata Dal government was formed in Bihar under the leadership of the current Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar and in the year 2006 itself, the Dam Safety Act 2006 was also enacted. State Dam Safety Committee and Dam Safety Cell were also constituted for implementation of its provisions .
- If the central government arranges training based on modern technology for the engineers engaged in the safety of dams, then the states will get huge benefits from it .

Other Recommendation from Central Government :-

- To strengthen the irrigation potential in South Bihar, help the state in resolving inter-state issues like Indrapuri Reservoir Scheme .
- Due to its geographical location, the northern part of the state faces the threat of floods from the rivers coming from Nepal, hence the need for the Center to initiate the construction of a high dam in Nepal .
- It may be mentioned that an institutional mechanism was set up to prevent disasters arising out of failure in dam safety and to ensure the safety of dams .
- In order to strengthen the system of monitoring, inspection, operation and maintenance of specified dams, the Government of India notified the Dam Safety Act, 2021 (Dam Safety Act 2021) on 14th December, 2021 and its provisions became effective from 30th December, 2021 .
- Most of the rivers enter Bihar from Nepal and carry a large amount of silt with them. Due to this there is frequent change in the course of the river. Because of this, coastal erosion is increasing continuously .
- There is a need for a national level silt management policy to prevent erosion. In this regard, necessary steps are also being taken by the Government of Bihar from time to time .

### **Amar Prem Bhawan**

Why In News ?

- Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated the newly constructed 'Amar Prem Bhawan ' by Shri Dadi Ji Seva Samiti at Shaktidham, Agrasen Marg (Bank Road) in Patna on 05 June 2022.



- With the help of like-minded people, 'Amar Prem Bhawan ' is being constructed to serve the needy and helpless people.

#### Key Points : -

- The 'Amar Prem Bhawan ' is constructed by Shri Sati Dham Seva Samiti or Dadi Ji Seva Samiti Bhawan, the trust (Trust) of Ranisati Temple.
- The Shri Sati Dham Seva Samiti bhawan was first constructed in the late 20th century.
- Due to its artistic and traditional Indian architecture, it has been identified as a heritage building by the Government of India.
- The Dadi Ji 'Seva Samiti Bhawan' was damaged due to the sudden earthquake on 26 January 2001. Later, the archeology department of France and India together realized the plan to reconstruct this building.

#### Ranisati Temple : -

- The history of Shri Ranisati ( Rani Sati Dadiji ) temple in Jhunjhunu is more than 400 years old and it presents an excellent testimony of female power and motherhood with rich stories of history and is a center of attraction for all the tourists .
- Rani Sati Dadiji Mandir also known as Dadi Maiyya Mandir was established on 20 October 1977 by Smt. Banarsibai Narayandasji – Mausiji .
- It is counted among the great masterpiece temples of India, the Ranisati Temple of Jhunjhunu is famous for its ancient paintings . Its place comes as one of the oldest pilgrimages in the country. Its grand historical work is unique in itself .
- The Rani Sati Temple in Jhunjhunu is visited by billions of worshipers and followers every year not only from India but from all corners of the world. Devotees from all over the country and abroad offer prayers daily according to rituals .
- Jhunjhunu Rani Sati Temple is a symbol of secular thoughts of India because here followers of all religions like Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Jain follow and worship Shri Rani Satiji with equal purity, devotion and unwavering faith .
- A holy puja festival is organized every year in Jhunjhunu on the occasion of Bhado Amavasya .



- The biggest feature of Shri Rani Sati Temple is that, no idol or image of any woman or man or God is kept here. Only one trident is worshiped as Power and Energy, which according to Hinduism symbolizes the supreme power .

Who is Rani Sati?

- Marwari Samaj in Rajasthan and other parts of the country worship Rani Sati Dadi. They believe that Rani Sati Dadi is an incarnation of Maa Durga.
- Rani Sati Dadi is related to Mahabharata period. In the Mahabharata period, Queen Sati is mentioned as Abhimanyu's wife Uttera .
- When Abhimanyu died in the war of Mahabharata, Uttera wanted to commit sati in the fire of Abhimanyu's funeral . She later abandoned this idea on the advice of Lord Shri Krishna .

### Mungeri Lal

Why In News ?

- The present Governor of Bihar, Shri Fagu Chauhan paid homage to the famous freedom fighter and former minister Late Mungeri Lal on his 21st death anniversary on June 29, 2022 .
- As a true tribute to Mungeri Lal, former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi's announcement "Kurji Mohalla, the birth place of Mungeri Lal, the epitome of simplicity, will be renamed as Mungeri Village" is being constantly recommended to be completed by the current Chief Minister .
- The establishment of Mungeri Lal Trust was announced by Sunita Kumar Foundation and the website [mungerilaltrust.com](http://mungerilaltrust.com) was launched .

Key Points : -

- Freedom fighter and proponent of social justice. Mungeri Lal ji was born on 01 January 1904 in Kurji (Kautilya Nagar) .
- Late Mungeri Lal ji had played an important role in the freedom struggle and in this sequence he went to jail several times .
- In 1952, he became a member of Bihar Legislative Assembly by winning from Patna West Vidhan Sabha constituency .



- Worked continuously as a member of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council from 1952 to 1977 and served as a minister in various departments of the Government of Bihar .
- Mungeri Babu was the chairman of the first backward commission set up in Bihar. Which is presently known as Mungeri Lal Commission. The Mungeri Lal Commission report is a very detailed study based on the subject of social justice .
- Through this report, Mungeri Lal ji, taking cognizance of the social situation, made many recommendations for reservation for the backward sections of the society and also for the poor and women of the general category, which was not only the social situation of that time but also It is equally important for today's society and social justice .
- On the basis of the report presented by him as the chairman of the Backward Classes Commission, till date there is a system of reservation for the backward and most backward in Bihar .
- Mungeri Babu was also the president of Bihar Depressed Classes Union and Bihar Agricultural Mazdoor Sangh. The basic mantra of his life was simple living and high thinking. Mungeri Lal ji was an intense Gandhian. He was associated with Gandhi Museum in Patna for life as well as served as the President of Bihar Freedom Fighters Association .
- The sun of Mungeri Babu's vibrant and meaningful life had set on June 29, 2001 at Holy Family Hospital, Kurji, Patna .

### 1. Inauguration of National Highway Projects

#### Why In News ?

- The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 15 National Highway projects costing about Rs 13,585 crore in Patna and Hajipur in Bihar on 07 June 2022 .

#### Key Points : -



- In 15 National Highway Projects, 11 National Highway Projects with a total length of 308 km worth Rs 9,607 crore will be constructed. Simultaneously, two National Highway projects of total length of 100 km will be inaugurated at a cost of Rs 2,761 crore. Through this project, the time taken to cross Mahatma Gandhi Setu will be reduced from 2 to 3 hours to 5 to 10 minutes .
- Chhapra-Gopalganj is being made 2 laning with 4 bypasses, which will make it possible for the traffic to pass through the highway through the bypass. This will relieve the city from the problem of traffic jams .
- The eastern lane of Gandhi Setu, the main medium connecting North Bihar, was also inaugurated in the year 2014 in the presence of Hon'ble Minister. In the year 2017, the work of making it in a new way started, but only a year ago, traffic could start from the western lane, but the problem of traffic jam was continuously coming to the fore .
- The road from Umagaon will directly connect religious places like Uchait Bhagwati and Mahishi Tarapith. The 6-laning of Aurangabad-Chordaha section will improve the road connectivity of Bihar with Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal .
- The 2-lane road being built on NH 80 will connect Bihar, Sahibganj and Assam to the Inter-State Waterway Terminal, which will reduce the cost of logistics .
- In addition, the Begusarai Elevated Flyover, Jayanagar Bypass ROB will facilitate traffic and bring relief to the state from long jams at level crossings. With the construction of the Kayamnagar to Ara 4 lane road, the traffic for Ara will also become easier from other areas of the state .
- The construction work of Mahatma Gandhi Setu started in the year 1972 and in the year 1982 the construction of its western lane and in 1987 the eastern lane was completed .
- Earlier only 4 bridges were built on the river Ganges, but at present a total of 17 bridges are being built on this river. A four-lane bridge is also being built parallel to Gandhi Setu. Munger-Bhagalpur-Mirza outpost four-lane new greenfield corridor is being built. Simultaneously, the existing road of Munger Mirzapur will be repaired and it will be widened by 10 meters .
- Gandhi Setu, the icon of the country's history, is currently the largest iron bridge. The work of a new bridge parallel to this bridge is going on in the Ganges, which will be completed by 2024, which will make Bihar's road network equal to that of America before the year 2024 .





## Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University, Darbhanga

### Why In News ?

- On the instructions of His Excellency the Governor-cum-Chancellor Mr. Fagu Chauhan, on June 28, 2022, Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University, Darbhanga along with the Vice Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Registrar, received complaints from various public representatives and other sources regarding irregularities in the relations of this University. A review meeting was organized in this regard .
- It should be noted that financial mismanagement is at its peak in most of the universities of Bihar and despite the orders of the state government, the accounts of Rs 1,048 crore are not being given by the universities .

### Key Points : -

- Bihar Education Department is now preparing to register an FIR against some universities under financial irregularities. In this context, it has been cautioned that if the account of the said amount is not given within a week, then they themselves will be responsible for further action .
- According to the Finance Officer of the Education Department, Magadha University located in Bodh Gaya and Lalit Narayan Mithila University in Darbhanga are at the top position in relation to the outstanding balance of the allocated amount in the last years. Both the institutions have not furnished an account of Rs.400 crore .
- BN Mandal University (Madhepura) Rs 97 crore, Tilka Manjhi Bhagalpur University Rs 67 crore 88 lakh, BRA Bihar University, Muzaffarpur Rs 88 crore 46 lakh, Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University Rs 43 crore, Veer Kunwar Singh University, Arrah has not given the account of 64 crore 34 lakh, and Munger University 23 crore 22 lakh. Similarly, the accounts have not been received from other universities also. That is why the education department is serious about financial mismanagement in all these universities .

Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University : -



- It was established on 26 January 1961 AD by the self. It was due to the charity of Maharajadhiraj Dr. Shri Kameshwar Singh .
- This university was recognized under the Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga-Sanskrit University Act, 1960 (Bihar Act VI, 1960) with the help of Dr. Zakir Hussain, the then Governor of Bihar State and the then Chief Minister of Bihar Keshari Dr. Srikrishna Singh .
- This university is located in Darbhanga city under the state of Bihar, India. Its jurisdiction was the whole of India at the time of its establishment, but at present its jurisdiction has remained only in the entire state of Bihar .
- At present, the operation of this university is being done according to the updated Bihar State University Act, 1976 (Bihar Act XXIII, 1976) and the rules - statutes, regulations, ordinances, and instructions issued under this Act .
- This university is recognized by the Grants Commission and also has membership from A. I. U .
- This university got B ++ grade from NAAC in the first cycle from 2006 to 2011 AD and in the second cycle from 2016 to 2021 AD with 2.70 CGPA got 'B' grade .

#### Powers and functions of Governor as Chancellor :-

- The governor is the chancellor of general universities, agricultural universities, technical universities, medical universities and music deed-to-be-universities .
- The Governor elects and appoints the Vice-Chancellor from among the names recommended by the Search Committee by constituting a Search Committee . In addition, the Chancellor has the power to grant leave to the Vice-Chancellors of various universities, to take disciplinary action or penal action against them .
- The right to nominate certain members of the Executive Council of the University / Court and to approve or disapprove of the laws and other rules passed by the Executive Council of the University, which have been submitted to the Chancellor for approval .
- The Governor, as the Chancellor, has all such powers as the Appellate Authority, by which he can set aside the decisions of various University bodies/authorities, if in his opinion they appear to be against the Acts, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations .



- The Governor, after listening to the memorandum and representation of the employees and students of the universities, improves the educational level of the university, regularizes the academic session, and also draws the attention of the central government to the police related issues if necessary .
- In relation to the representation in various bodies of universities and the management committees of its colleges, the final election disputes are decided by the Governor. Apart from this, the Governor nominates experts for the appointment of teachers in different categories in the universities .
- The Governor presides over the convocations of universities and the meetings of their courts/managing committees and is responsible for conducting review meetings of the Vice-Chancellors and the ministries concerned .
- As the Chancellor, the Governor also has all the other powers, which have been given to him by the Constitution by the Act and the laws .

#### Role of Governors in State Universities :-

- The Governor of a State is the ex-officio Chancellor of the Universities of that State.
- As Governor, he acts with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, while as Chancellor he acts independently of the Council of Ministers and decides on all matters of the University .

#### Case of Central Universities :-

- According to the Central Universities Act, 2009 and other constitutional statutes, the President of India is the Visitor of the Central University.
- With the governor's role limited to presiding over convocations, the Chancellor is the nominal head of central universities, who is appointed by the President as a visitor only .
- The Vice-Chancellor is also appointed by the visitor from a panel of names selected by committees constituted by the Central Government .
- According to the Act, the President as the Visitor has the power to authorize the inspection of academic and non-academic aspects of the universities and to inquire into the concerned officers/authorities .

#### Constitutional Provisions related to Governor :-



- According to Article 153 of the Constitution, there shall be a Governor for each State. A person can be appointed as the Governor of two or more states . The Governor is a nominee of the Central Government, who is appointed by the President .
- According to the constitution, the governor is the constitutional head of the state and always plays a dual role. He is bound to follow the advice of the State Council of Ministers. The governor acts as an important link between the central government and the state government .
- The eligibility requirements for the post of Governor have been specified under Article 157 and 158 .
- According to Article 161 of the Constitution, the Governor also has powers like pardon and remission .
- Under Article 163, there is a provision for the constitution of a Council of Ministers under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister to assist and advise the Governor in all his other functions in addition to certain discretionary powers .
- Under Article 164 of the Constitution, the Chief Minister and other ministers of the state are appointed by the Governor .
- According to Article 200, the Governor assent to a bill passed by the Legislative Assembly of the state, withholds his assent or reserves the bill for the consideration of the President .
- Under Article 213 of the Constitution, the Governor can also promulgate ordinances in certain circumstances .

### **Dr. Anugrah Narayan Singh**

#### Why In News ?

- On June 18, 2022 on the birth anniversary of Dr. Anugrah Narayan Singh, the first Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Governor Mr. Fagu Chouhan and Chief Minister Mr. Nitish Kumar garlanded the picture of Dr. Anugrah Narayan Singh and paid tribute to him .

#### Key Points : -



- This year (in 2022) the 135th birth anniversary of Bihar Vibhuti Anugrah Narayan Sinha was celebrated.
- In addition to the first Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Dr. Anugrah Narayan Singh was also the first Finance Minister of Bihar (in the year 1937).
- Bihar Vibhuti Dr Anugrah Babu played an important role in the Champaran Satyagraha of the year 1917.
- Mahatma Gandhi had invited Anugrah Babu to fight against the atrocities on farmers in Champaran .
- Dr. Singh was born on June 18, 1887 in Poiwa village of Aurangabad district and died on July 5, 1957 in Patna .
- Anugrah Babu was arrested on 10 August 1942 during the Quit India Movement .
- Bihar Vibhuti Dr. Anugrah Narayan Singh is called the builder of modern Bihar .
- The Damodar river valley project benefiting Bengal and Nepal along with Bihar is the result of the tireless efforts of Anugrah Babu .
- The role of Dr. Anugrah Narayan Singh in the administration and cabinet of Bihar is compared to the role played by Sardar Patel in all India level governance .
- Dr. Anugrah Narayan Singh is considered a pundit of applied economics in Bihar .
- First of all, Dr. Rajendra Prasad addressed Dr. Anugrah Narayan Singh as Bihar Vibhuti .

## Gandak River

### Why In News ?

- On June 27, 2022, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inspected the anti-erosion works on the banks of Gandak river at Vala Vasanta in Lalganj block of Vaishali district after receiving a complaint of coastal erosion of Gandak river .

### Key Points : -



- The main reason for the coastal erosion of the Gandak river is the accumulation of silt in large quantities on the other bank of the river. The width and depth of the river have decreased due to the accumulation of silt .
- The Chief Minister ordered the officers to carry out silt cutting works on the other bank of the river to increase the width and depth of the river. This will reduce the pressure of river water flow on the embankment and the embankment will also be safe .
- During floods it is necessary that the people of the villages around the affected embankment of river Gandak should keep themselves alert and aware .

### Gandak River

- The Gandak River is a river flowing in Nepal and Bihar, also known as the Big Gandaki or simply the Gandak. This river is also known as Saligrami or Salgrami in Nepal and Narayani and Saptagandaki in Bihari plains.
- Konochetes named by Greek geographers and Sadanira mentioned in ancient Indian epics is also the Gandak river.
- The Gandak river enters in India from Nepal and flows south-west from the Himalayas. Before the Triveni mountain, a tributary river Trishul Ganga joins it . This river flows in the south-east direction for a long distance and also determines the boundary between the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar .
- In Uttar Pradesh, this river flows through Maharajganj and Kushinagar districts. In Bihar it covers a distance of 192 miles passing through Champaran, Saran and Muzaffarpur districts .
- The Gandak river joins the Ganges in front of Patna after passing through a 765 km long winding course. The total length of this river is about 1310 km .
- The total catchment area of the Gandak River is 46,300 km (17,900 sq mi), most of which is in Nepal. In the Nepal Himalayas, it is notable for its deep valley . The three mountains in the Gandak river basin are the Dhaulagiri, Manaslu and Annapurna mountains above 8,000 m (26,000 ft). Dhaulagiri is the highest point of the Gandak basin .
- The major Indian cities situated on the banks of river Gandak are:- Valmiki Nagar, Harinagar (Ramnagar), Hajipur and Sonpur (also known as Harihar Kshetra) .



### Budhi Gandak : -

- The Budhi Gandak is an ancient abandoned stream of the Gandak River that flows parallel to the Gandak to the east and joins the Ganges to the northeast of Munger. The Gandak River is formed by the confluence of the Kali and Trishuli rivers, which rise in the high Himalayan range of Nepal. From their confluence point to the Indian border, the Gandak River is known as the Narayani River .
- The Budhi Gandak was initially also known as the Sikrana River after it originates from the ranges of Someshvara, but after meeting the Tiur River in its course, it came to be known as the Budhi Gandak River. The origin of the Budhi Gandak river is originally believed to be Chautarwa Chaur situated between Ramnagar and Bagaha in West Champaran, Bihar state of India. It is a tributary of river Ganges and is known as the longest river of North Bihar .
- After meeting the Tiur river, this river enters Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga districts and flows in an area of 20 km in the south-east direction. From here this river reaches Samastipur and Begusarai, where it starts flowing in a spiral shape. Flowing in the same shape, it joins the river Ganges near Khagaria in the northeast of Munger .
- The length of the Budhi Gandak river is 320 km and the catchment area is 12,021 sq km, of which 9,601 sq km is under the state of Bihar and the rest is in Nepal. This river in its journey of 320 km passes through many other districts including East Champaran, Muzaffarnagar, Samastipur, Khagaria of Bihar state .
- The Budhi Gandak river divides the northern Bihar plain into two parts and its current flows from north-west to south-west. At the beginning of its journey, this river first flows for 56 km and finally flows south .

### Gandak Project : -

- The Gandak Project is a joint river valley project of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh .
- After the Indo-Nepal Agreement of 1949, Nepal has also started getting benefits from this project .
- Under this project, a barrage was built on the Gandak river under the Tribeni canal head regulator at Balmiki Nagar in the state of Bihar. Four canals



originate from this barrage, out of which two canals flow into India and two canals flow into Nepal .

- With the help of Gandak project, 15 MW of electricity is generated and the canals taken out from here irrigate a large area of Uttar Pradesh apart from Champaran .

## Caste-Based Census

### Why In News ?

- On June 01, 2022, the Chief Minister of Bihar, Nitish Kumar, during an all-party meeting, unanimously decided to conduct caste-based census in the state .
- This time the caste based census will also include economic census .

### Key Points : -

- People of all classes, religions and sects of the state will be included in the caste census .
- Through this caste based census, it will help in creating a data base of the most neglected people of the society so that the government can focus on the development of all .
- In this caste census of the state, the castes and sub-castes of all religions and sects including Muslim society will be counted. It is worth noting that earlier this type of calculation did not include the sub-castes of Muslim communities .
- According to the 2011 census, about 16.87 percent of the Muslim population, about 15.70 percent of the Scheduled Castes and about one percent of the Scheduled Tribes live in the present Bihar .
- The Nitish government has been making efforts for the last four years regarding the caste census. A resolution was also passed in this regard in the Bihar Legislature in February 2019 and 2020. After that, in August 2021, a delegation from Bihar met the current Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in this regard and demanded a caste census in Bihar .
- Bihar will be the second state in the country to conduct caste census. Earlier, Karnataka had conducted such caste census, but its report could not be published .





- The main objective of this census is to develop the people of the state in an all-round way. Those who are behind due to some reason, are neglected, all of them should have holistic development. The District Magistrate Officer will be made the nodal officer for this work .
- The state of Bihar has decided to conduct its own caste census after the central government made it clear that nationwide caste census cannot be conducted now .
- According to the current data of the Central Government, there are a total of 3,747 castes in the country at present, but according to the official survey of the year 2011, the figures of more than 4.28 lakh castes and sub-castes have been revealed .

#### Commencement of census :-

- Bihar is going to have an official enumeration of all castes after almost nine decades. By which it can be told who belongs to which caste and which caste has the present number. Which caste people are so rich and which caste people are so poor .
- Census in India was started in the year 1861 during the British period. Census of people of different castes was also included in this. Since then till the year 1931, a total of eight census were conducted and during this time the number of castes was also counted at the national level .
- The last survey of the population of different castes was done with the census of 1931 in the British Raj. At this time the population of only 24 castes was reported in Bihar. In the year 1941, due to the Second World War, the census could not be done. After independence, when the census was started again in the country, the title of caste enumeration was removed from it .
- The purpose of this caste enumeration was only to find out how many people belong to which caste. Later this rumor was spread that the British government would deal with the people on the basis of this. The nobility would hold the highest position in governance and those of the lower strata would be treated as neglected or inferior .
- In an effort to show superiority, the Kudmi caste (aside from the present Kurmi caste) demanded Kshatriya status for all Kurmis (including the Kudmi) from their British rule and fought for a change in the caste status .



- The Kudmi (aside from the Kurmi) caste, residing in the present-day Jharkhand region of United Bihar, were earlier counted in the tribal community . The All India Kurmi Kshatriya Mahasabha had also given a memorandum to the central government before the 1931 census .
- As a result, when the census was conducted after independence in 1951, it was excluded from the list of Scheduled Tribes in the Jharkhand region .
- It is worth noting that now the same Kudmi community is continuously agitating in various ways in the state to re-include themselves in the tribal group .
- In Bihar, many other castes including blacksmiths are demanding such a special caste. This is happening only because after independence, in the constitution, the constitution makers have made arrangements to give special protection to the people of the socially oppressed-backward classes of the country .
- It is noteworthy that even today the only source of actual information on the caste population is the census of the year 1931, whose figures may no longer be relevant, because at that time Jharkhand was in Bihar along with Odisha .

## 2. George Fernandes

### Why In News ?

- On June 3, 2022, the birth anniversary of the late George Fernandes was celebrated as a state function for the first time .

### Key Points : -

- The statue of Late George Fernandes was unveiled at City Park, Muzaffarpur on 3 June 2020 .
- The decision to celebrate the birth anniversary of late George Fernandes as a state function was taken last year only in 2021, but this year it could not happen due to Covid - 19 .
- George Fernandes was a five-time MP from Muzaffarpur. After winning the Lok Sabha elections for the first time from Muzaffarpur in the year 1977, he had a deep attachment to it .



- Former Union Minister George Fernandes was instrumental in establishing and promoting the regional office of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Institute in Muzaffarpur .
- Through these employment opportunities were generated not only in Muzaffarpur but also in other 22 districts of the state . During his time, North Bihar used to be the model of cottage and small scale industries. He had established not one but dozens of national level industries here .
- The establishment of Kanti Thermal Power, Madhaul Power Grid, Muzaffarpur Doordarshan and Bagaha-Chitauni Rail Bridge is the contribution of Late George Fernandes .
- Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) was established in Muzaffarpur in the year 1977 with the efforts of George Fernandes and in the year 1978 the unit of Lijjat Papad was established .

#### Life Introduction : -

- George Fernandes was born on 3 June 1930 to John Joseph Fernandes in a Mangalorean-Catholic family in Mangalore .
- He completed his primary education from Mangalore school. After this, he completed his 12th class from St. Alosis College, Mangalore .
- Due to the traditional custom of the house, George was sent for religious education at the age of 16 at St Peter's Seminary in Bangalore .
- In the year 1949, George left Mangalore and came to Mumbai in search of work. His life in Mumbai was spent in trouble before getting a job as a proofreader in a newspaper .
- In 1950, George came close to social activist Ram Manohar Lohia and was deeply influenced by his life .
- After winning the election from Muzaffarpur again in 1989, George joined the Janata Party and V.P. He became the Railway Minister for a few years in Singh's government. During this time he started the Konkan Railway project to connect Mangalore and Mumbai. This project was the first project for the development of railways after Indian independenc .
- In the 1998 elections, the Vajpayee government came to power completely and the NDA was formed. George Fernandes was made the convener of the NDA. In the year 1999, the Janata Party was divided into two parts, out of which Janata Dal United and Janata Dal Secular became. George joined JDU and merged his Samata Party with JDU .



- George became the Defense Minister both times in the NDA government. Pakistan had attacked India while his defense minister. 'Operation Vijay' is considered to be the biggest achievement of his tenure .

## Baba Brahmeshwar Temple

### Why In News ?

- The Department of Tourism, Government of Bihar has approved the proposal of construction of Ghat in Baba Brahmeshwar place, temple boundary, toilets, changing rooms, queue management for crowd control and five acre pond adjacent to the temple on June 09, 2022 .

### Key Points : -

- Baba Brahmeshwar Sthan Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is located in the Brahmapur zone of Buxar district .
- Local belief is that this temple was built by Lord Brahma himself .
- This temple has special recognition among the devotees of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Devotees come here mainly from Buxar, Bhojpur, Saran and Ballia districts of Uttar Pradesh .
- Keeping in mind the facilities of the devotees coming in lakhs, the Tourism Department, Government of Bihar will beautify the Baba Brahmeshwar Nath Temple, Brahmapur and make it attractive .
- Here arrangements will be made to remove a musical fountain from the pond so that the grandeur can be given a better look .
- The total cost of this project is Rs 874 crore and it is planned to be completed in the year 2023 .
- The biggest feature of Brahmeshwar Nath temple is that, the main door of this temple is west facing whereas the door of most of the Shiva temples in the country is located in the east direction .
- According to historical evidence, seeing the miracle of this temple, Mohammad Ghazni, who had gone on a campaign to destroy the temples of entire India, had to return without destroying the temple .



## Kharagpur Lake

### Why In News ?

- In view of the facilities of the tourists, on June 10, 2022 the Tourism Department, Government of Bihar has approved the plan to construct basic facilities like canteen, viewing deck, pier and toilet here .

### Key Points : -

- The total cost of this lake beautification project is Rs 6.84 crore .
- Kharagpur Lake was built in 1876 by the Darbhanga Raja. Presently it is being maintained and operated by Irrigation Department, Government of Bihar .
- This lake is located on the Mani river, three kilometers from Haveli Kharagpur in the Munger district of Bihar. It is a very beautiful place surrounded by small hills on all sides. This lake is spread in about 5 thousand acres and the water of the surrounding 64 square miles is stored here .
- It is a very special tourist destination for the local people, mainly tourists come here from different areas of Haveli Kharagpur and Munger district .
- Every year lakhs of tourists come here on the occasion of New Year. Due to the small hills, the sunset here is very attractive, due to this various Sunset view points have been made here .
- The famous historian Buchanan compared this beautiful lake to Kilneri Lake in Switzerland .

## National Food Laboratory

### Why In News ?

- On June 05, 2022, Union Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Bihar Government Health Minister Mangal Pandey jointly inaugurated the country's fourth and state's



first National Food Laboratory at Raxaul in East Champaran district of Bihar state .

Key Points : -

- Under the bilateral agreement between India and Nepal, FSSAI, the National Food Laboratory was established in Raxaul to reduce the time taken for testing of samples of food items imported from Nepal .
- Food samples were earlier sent to the National Food Laboratory in Kolkata for testing along with legal procedures. Mahendra Rai Yadav, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Government of Nepal, was also present at the inauguration ceremony of this laboratory .
- With the establishment of a food laboratory in Raxaul, Bihar, the scope of importing-exporting more food products to Nepal and India and connecting the two countries with each other through more efficient trade will increase .
- The food laboratory will be accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) by July-August this year .
- The laboratory will soon start testing samples of grains, fats and oils, spices, fruits, vegetables and packaged drinking water .
- If required, India will also help Nepal's Kathmandu Food Lab to get accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) .
- The inauguration of the food laboratory in Raxaul was a constant request of the Nepalese exporters from the very beginning, which the Government of India is now fulfilling in 2022 .
- The opening of the National Food Laboratory has attempted to fulfill the wishes of the neighboring country of India. This laboratory reflects India's commitment to improve relations between the two countries, making it an economically strong nation and improving relations between the two countries .

### **FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India)**

- FSSAI is an autonomous organization formed on 5th September, 2008 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India .



- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India was established under the Food Safety and Standards ( FSS ) Act, 2006 for the purpose of food safety and its regulation .
- Through regulation and supervision, FSSAI takes care of the protection and improvement of the health of the people .
- The main goal of FSS ACT, 2006 was to create a single organization and fully delegate the work of food safety and standards of various levels, departments .
- FSSAI has also been established so that there is only one organization for food related matters and manufacturers, traders, investors and customers who manufacture food related products do not face any kind of problem .
- FSSAI controls and supervises the units manufacturing food items/ ingredients. Therefore, when any such business is done by an entrepreneur, then it becomes very necessary to get a license from FSSAI .

Functions of FSSAI :-

Following are some of the essential functions of FSSAI under the FSS Act, 2006 :-

- To lay down regulations for laying down food standards and guidelines and to make proper arrangements for the implementation of various standards notified in this context .
- Developing the necessary mechanisms and guidelines for certification of Food Safety Management Systems for food related businesses .
- To lay down the reference procedure and guidelines for certification of laboratories and notification of recognized laboratories .
- To provide scientific advice and technical assistance to the Central Government and the State Governments in relation to the formulation of policy-rules in the areas affected by food security and nutrition .
- Collection of data on consumption of food, contaminants in food, various residues, pollutants in food items, identification of potential risks and introduction of early warning system for this is also a major task of FSSAI .
- To build information network across the country so that consumers, panchayats etc. can get fast, reliable and objective information about food safety and issues of concern .



- To arrange training programs for individuals or entrepreneurs who are involved in food related businesses or have their desire to be involved in food businesses .
- To contribute to the development of international technical standards for food, hygiene and phytosanitary standards .
- To promote general awareness among the public and entrepreneurs about food safety and food standards .

In the FSS Act, 2006, seven old food articles have been incorporated : -

1. Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 .
2. Fruit Products Order, 1955 .
3. Meat Food Products Order, 1973 .
4. Vegetable Oil Products (Control) Order, 1947 .
5. Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order, 1988 .
6. Solvent Extracted Oil, De- Oiled Meal and Edible Flour (Control) Order, 1967 .
7. Milk and Milk Products Order, 1992 .

### 3. Durgavati reservoir

Why In News ?

- The Bihar Tourism Department jointly with the Central Forest and Environment Department has decided to start river safari in Durgavati reservoir from the month of July .

Key Points : -

- River Safari of Durgavati Reservoir will be the first such safari in Bihar in which both forest and river can be enjoyed simultaneously .
- The area of Rohtas present on one side of the reservoir and Kaimur hill on the other side will be quite delightful for the tourists .
- For river safari, with the help of a 25 seater double hulk boat, a journey of six kilometers will be made inside the river towards Gupta Dham, where tourists will be able to enjoy walking in the forest area after landing .





- Arrangements have been made for tourists to visit 4 km jungle safari and 6 km river safari in the reservoir .
- The foundation of Durgavati project was laid by the then Deputy Prime Minister Jagjivan Ram in the year 1976. The project was inaugurated in the year 2014 after 38 years .
- Tourists were earlier enjoying river safari in Balmiki Nagar on the Gandak river in Bihar. But after going ahead riding on a vote in the river, tourists had to be deprived of roaming in the area of dense forest area .
- The outskirts of the river safari of Balmiki Nagar was far away from the forest area. Due to which, in this safari of Balmiki Nagar, the visitors could enjoy only the river or the reservoir .

### Yogendra Pandey

#### Why in News ?

- Yogendra Pandey, former Minister of State for Minor Irrigation, Government of Bihar and former MLA of Govindganj Assembly Constituency, passed away on June 07, 2022 at the age of 88 .

#### Key Points : -

- Governor of Bihar Shri Fagu Chauhan and the Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumar have expressed deep condolences on the demise of former Minister Yogendra Pandey .
- When the Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav took over the reins of Bihar for the first time, then Yogendra Pandey was given a place in his cabinet . From 1990 to 1995, he was the Minister of State for Minor Irrigation of Bihar .
- Yogendra Pandey, who was associated with socialist ideology for life, came into the limelight especially in the 90s, when he weighed the then Chief Minister Lalu Prasad ji with a silver coin .
- It is noteworthy that in the year 1985, Yogendra Pandey became an MLA for the first time as an independent candidate from Govindganj Assembly



(Motihari) constituency. In the year 1990, he was re-elected MLA on Janata Dal ticket.

- Yogendra Pandey, during his lifetime, had decided the journey of public distribution system from shopkeeper to head, vice chairman of cooperative bank, chairman of land development bank, then MLA and finally minister on the basis of popularity.
- During his ministerial period, he has been involved in public development related works besides setting up of sub-division in Areraj as well as providing referral hospital status to Areraj Primary Health Center, giving block status to Sangrampur, setting up additional primary health center in Dubey Tola village. Made an important contribution .

### Shri Gurudev Balram ji

#### Why In News ?

- The Governor of the Bihar state, Shri Fagu Chauhan, unveiled the statue of Shri Gurudev Balram ji in the courtyard of Matru Udbodhan Ashram at Yarpur, Patna on June 05, 2022 .

#### Key Points : -

- Shri Shri 1008 Gurudev Balram Ji Maharaj was both the founder and patron of Matru Udbodhan Ashram, Yarpur .
- Baba Balram was born on June 5, 1933. At the age of 17-18 years, his mentor S. Of. He started spiritual practice under the guidance of Bhattacharya .
- Baba Gurudev Balram ji had established Matru Udbodhan Ashram in the year 1962 at Yarpur, Patna .
- Dharma brought countless people to the path of good deeds in his life and till the last moment of his life he was engaged in humanitarian service .
- With complete spiritual success in his life, he organized Shat Chandi Mahayagya in 1975, Sahastra Chandi Mahayagya in 1987, Laksh Chandi Mahayagya in 1991 and Koti Chandi Mahayagya in 2009 .



- In view of human service, he was honored with International Hindu Award by Rudra Abhishek Foundation, London and Millennium International Hindu Award by Devi Dham Holland .
- Among his disciples, former Railway Minister Lalit Narayan Mishra, former Chief Minister Dr. Jagannath Mishra, apart from many big politicians have also been there .

